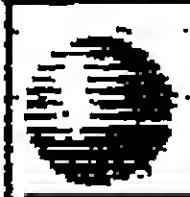


## Turkish foreign minister resigns

ANKARA (AP) — Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal announced his resignation Monday over a dispute with the prime minister on the appointment of his assistant. Mr. Soysal has been at odds with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on a variety of issues, including the government's hardline security tactics that have led to sharp denunciations in the West. Mr. Soysal, 65, a member of the junior coalition partner Social Democrats, had resisted appointing Ms. Ciller's handpicked candidate as his deputy since he was named foreign minister during a cabinet reshuffle in July. It was not immediately clear if his resignation would affect the future of the coalition government. Mr. Soysal's resignation came two days before the National Security Council, a supreme advisory body, was scheduled to discuss the future of a U.S.-led air force helping protect Iraqi Kurds from a Turkish base. A parliament vote is expected next month. Mr. Soysal said in recent interviews that he believed that the allied force should leave. He argued that it was preventing Kurdish separatists from controlling events in northern Iraq, where Turkish Kurdish separatists keep bases. It was not immediately clear if Mr. Soysal's resignation was linked with the issue.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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## 3 killed, Israeli wounded in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Three guerrillas were killed Monday when Israeli helicopters, responding to a mortar attack that wounded one of their soldiers, strafed South Lebanon, security sources said. The violence erupted at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT) when guerrillas fired mortar shells at an Israeli military convoy heading towards an outpost at the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle in an Israeli-occupied enclave, said the sources. The Israeli military command confirmed one soldier was wounded, but gave no other details. The Lebanese security sources said the soldier's injuries were light and he was treated on the spot. Two Israeli helicopter gunships which came to the aid of the convoy repeatedly strafed suspected guerrilla infiltration trails around the villages of Yohnor and Arnoun on the edge of the central sector of the Israeli-held border strip. The sources said the bodies of three guerrillas were later spotted in the ravines in a no man's land near the site of the attack.

## Weizman to visit Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — President Ezer Weizman will pay the first visit to Egypt by an Israeli head of state when he goes to Cairo on Dec. 19 for two days, officials said Monday. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who invited Mr. Weizman, is under Israeli pressure to visit the Jewish state. However, Mr. Mubarak has so far refused to set a date saying the time must be right, despite repeated trips to Cairo by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

## Serial killer killed in prison

MADISON (AP) — Jeffrey Dahmer, who confessed to killing 17 men and boys and cannibalizing some of his victims, was attacked in prison and killed Monday. Dahmer was pronounced dead on the way to a hospital with massive head injuries, a spokesman said. Dahmer, 34, was cleaning a recreation area at the Columbia correctional institute when he was attacked. Another inmate also was attacked and hospitalized. Dahmer was convicted in all but one of the 17 sex killings and was serving 16 consecutive life sentences. Arrested in July 1991, Dahmer said he picked up young men and boys at gay bars, shopping malls and other public places, lured them to his apartment and strangled and dismembered them. Skulls and other body parts were found in his apartment. He admitted he had sex with four corpses, and saved the heart of one "to eat later."

## Judiciary to probe Lebanon drug case

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's prosecutor-general said on Monday he would investigate allegations linking members of parliament, a government minister and the president's son to illegal drug dealing. Deputy Yahya Shamas caused a sensation when he made the allegations last Thursday as parliament voted to strip him of immunity so he could be prosecuted on drug dealing charges. Prosecutor-General Munif Oueidat said he had received all records of the session in which Mr. Shamas made the accusations. The declarations in parliament are privileged under Lebanese law.

## Mock remains foreign minister in Austria

VIENNA (AFP) — Alois Mock, Austria's foreign minister since 1987, will remain in the post under a new government coalition being formed by Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, the conservative People's Party leadership said Monday.

## Arafat upbeat on self-rule elections after meeting Peres

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said after meeting Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Monday he hoped there would soon be elections in the former occupied territories.

"We hope that we will soon be able to (overcome) all of the problems we had so that we have the opportunity to have free elections in all the Palestinian territories," Mr. Arafat told a news conference in Brussels.

"The Israelis understand our need for quick elections, but at the same time we also have to understand the necessity for security," he added.

Flanked by Mr. Peres, who is on a one-day visit to Brussels, Mr. Arafat said free elections spelled stability for his people.

Under the self-rule accord signed between the PLO and Israel in Cairo six months ago, elections were to have taken place in July in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and parts of the West Bank still occupied by Israel.

However, talks got bogged down over the nature and size of the elected assembly

and whether Palestinian groups who reject the self-rule deal should be allowed to stand for office.

Mr. Peres said negotiations had reopened in Brussels over when elections should take place, adding that the talks should not take place publicly.

"Today we have agreed on an agenda. I don't think that we need to negotiate publicly... basically whatever is democratic is acceptable to us," he said.

"We intend to negotiate with our Palestinian partners very seriously," he added.

A senior Israeli official said Israel was ready to agree to direct elections for a Palestinian leader and grant wider powers to the legislative council in return for concessions on a military redeployment on the West Bank.

Talk of Israeli "concessions" was rejected by Palestinian official Zahira Kamal.

"Direct elections of the head of the autonomy council at the same time as the council is not one of our demands. It's part of our election system."

"The elections are an internal thing for the Palestinians."

After their joint meeting Mr. Peres and Arafat met with foreign ministers from the European troika — the current, last and next presidents.

(Continued on page 7)

## Hamas vows its activists will not lay down arms

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Hamas members will never lay down their weapons as long as the Israeli occupation continues, a leader of the group said in an interview published Monday.

Mahmoud Zahar told Al Quds newspaper Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, would no longer hold armed demonstrations in the autonomous areas, as agreed with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority.

But he added: "It must be clear that as long as an inch of Palestinian land remains occupied, it is a crime to talk about disarming or to disarm any Palestinian under any pretext."

The interview was not available to Gaza residents for most of the day as Palestinian police seized all newspapers for about six hours after allegedly biased reports of an Islamic rally held here on Saturday.

Dr. Zahar also disputed a claim by Mr. Arafat that a

turnout of at least 10,000 people at a rally in support of the PLO chairman last week reflected public approval of the autonomy agreement.

The Hamas leader said the figure was not large enough, and the rally had been "demanded by Mr. Arafat and organised by Fatah."

"It can be considered a withdrawal of confidence in the Palestinian authority and in Fatah," he countered.

The group is vehemently opposed to the PLO's autonomy deal with Israel, and has vowed to continue fighting the Jewish state.

Asked what alternatives there were to the autonomy deal, Dr. Zahar highlighted conditions set by Hamas in 1988.

These included an ultimatum to Gaza residents for most of the day as Palestinian police seized all newspapers for about six hours after allegedly biased reports of an Islamic rally held here on Saturday.

Other conditions call for Palestinians to be able to elect or choose their leader

(Continued on page 7)

## Fear of 'Ain Al Hilweh fighting eases, but stalemate persists

SIDON (Agencies) — Palestinian dissidents backed down Monday from an ultimatum to Yasser Arafat's loyalists to surrender their positions in Lebanon's biggest refugee camp or face an all-out war.

Disident leader Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Maqdah said he still insisted that Mr. Arafat's men surrendered the last five centres they hold in the sprawling shantytown of 'Ain Al Hilweh, although he dropped a deadline to evict them by force.

The deadline, which was extended twice in less than 12 hours, expired at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) without a surrender from Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, and with no attack by Col. Maqdah's forces.

They said Col. Maqdah also was told that if he eliminated Fatah from the camp Mr. Arafat would definitely stop his \$450,000 monthly stipend to 'Ain Al Hilweh's 60,000 Palestinians, with no one else to compensate them.

Faced with this opposition, from within, Col. Maqdah agreed to drop the deadline for military action and asked his objecting assistants to find another way to get Fatah's

positions under his control peacefully.

The head of Fatah militia in Lebanon said meanwhile he tendered his resignation after last week's inter-Palestinian clashes but his request was turned down.

Lt.-Col. Khaled Al Shayeib said he decided to "freeze his military duties" after Fatah's general director in Lebanon, Colonel Sultan Abu Al Amin, refused his request in 'Ain Al Hilweh.

Col. Shayeib did not say why he tendered his resignation but he was quoted by Beirut newspapers as saying "the situation in the camp is explosive. Those who started the fighting (on Friday) remain in the camp."

Col. Shayeib said the clashes were sparked by a power struggle within the ranks of Fatah. Anti-Arafat

(Continued on page 7)



QATARI OFFICIAL HONOURED: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Monday confers Al Kawab Medal of the First Order upon visiting head of the Qatari General Commission on Youth and Sports Sheikh

Mohammad Ben Edd Al Thani. Attending the meeting were Youth Minister Fawaz Abul Ghannam and Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Abdul Aziz (see page 3) (Petra photo)

## EU lifts arms embargo on Syria

BRUSSELS (Agencies) —

The European Union (EU) on Monday lifted its eight-year-old embargo on arms sales to Syria, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said.

A meeting of EU foreign ministers unanimously agreed to lift the embargo imposed in 1986 after an Arab was convicted in Britain of attempting to plant a bomb on an Israeli airline at London's Heathrow airport.

The British government said at the time it had proof that Syrian diplomats were involved in the attempted attack, in April 1986, which Damascus has always denied.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara was due to meet later with his EU counterparts in Brussels for the

first such talks since 1977.

"Syria has always called for an effective European role in the Middle East peace process, while Israel has opposed it by sidelining Europe," said the paper said.

The EU has also lifted other sanctions, such as bans on low-level diplomatic meetings, between 1987 and 1990, when Syria sided with the West in the Gulf war.

EU-Syrian relations have improved recently along with the Mideast peace accords between Israel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan.

Diplomats said Mr. Shara

was to discuss how to promote economic cooperation between Syria and the EU and the resumption of financial aid to Damascus within meetings

here Monday.

Syrian officials hailed the EU meeting.

"Syria has always been calling for a greater European role in the Middle East and we hope today's meeting would contribute to furthering the Syrian-European relations," one official spokesman said.

"Europe with its deep-rooted historical links with the Middle East and its location close to the region is qualified to play a greater role and Syria welcomes the European moves in this respect," he said.

The director-general of Israel's foreign ministry on Sunday asked the EU to re-

(Continued on page 7)

## GCC signs security pact without Qatar

RIYADH (Agencies) —

The London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat reported that GCC Secretary General Fahim Al Qassim had spent two days in Qatar prior to the Saudi capital on Monday that has been under discussion for the last decade.

The interior ministers of Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sealed the accord designed to guarantee their collective security at the end of a two-day meeting.

Qatar boycotted the meeting to protest alleged Saudi attacks on its shipping in a disputed border region.

Kuwait, the other member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), did not sign the accord "for legislative reasons," said the interior minister Ali Salem Al Sabah.

Most of the disputes erupted after Britain ended its colonial rule in the early 1970s, leaving poorly marked borders separating Gulf states.

The Qatar-Saudi dispute flared into a brief shootout in September 1992, but the confrontation was quickly contained following Egyptian mediation.

Details of Monday's accord, which will be submitted to a GCC summit conference in Bahrain Dec. 19, have not been released.

But the Saudi interior minister told reporters that it provides for the extradition of any fugitive wanted by another GCC country, irrespective of his or her nationality.

Prince Nayef also said that the agreement was "multifaceted" and aims to protect GCC nationals from hostile "intellectual" influences and threats to their well-being and wealth.

He was alluding to Islamic extremists trying to spread their influence in the conservative GCC states as well as to drug traffickers and swindlers.

Prince Nayef said the GCC countries hoped to play a prominent role in combating international crime.

## Jordanian students in Haifa; tourists visit Eilat

HAIFA (Agencies) —

The London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat reported that GCC Secretary General Fahim Al Qassim had spent two days in Qatar prior to the meeting trying to bring the leadership to change its mind.

The GCC was born in 1981 as a collective economic and security alliance with the aim of gradual movement towards integration.

But border disputes still mar the relations of some of its member states.

Aside from its feud with Saudi Arabia over border territory claimed by both sides, Qatar also is locked in a dispute with Bahrain over water boundaries.

Most of the disputes erupted after Britain ended its colonial rule in the early 1970s, leaving poorly marked borders separating Gulf states.

He said Kuwait was not opposed to the accord, which would apparently be submitted to parliament first.

The Saudi interior minister, Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, said when the meeting opened that he regretted Qatar's absence but it was not opposed to the accord, which has been under consideration since 1984.

Doha had warned of a boycott after complaining about "five attacks in the last two years when the Saudi coast guard had opened fire, arrested and detained Qatari sailors at Khor Al Adaid," a Gulf official said.

Khor Al Adaid is a waterway to the Gulf in a border region disputed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Qatar had vowed to stay away from the GCC meeting if Riyadh failed to answer questions in a protest letter about the attacks, the official added on condition of anonymity.

Prince Nayef also said that the agreement was "multifaceted" and aims to protect GCC nationals from hostile "intellectual" influences and threats to their well-being and wealth.

He was alluding to Islamic extremists trying to spread their influence in the conservative GCC states as well as to drug traffickers and swindlers.

Prince Nayef said the GCC countries hoped to play a prominent role in combating international crime.

and seen as a successful example of coexistence.

Israeli pop singer Riki Gal, attending a reception for the Jordanian guests at Haifa hotel, said she was very moved by the budding

## Jordanian team holds talks on trade in Iraq

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — A team of Jordanian businessmen met here Monday with Iraqi Health Minister Omar Midhat Mubarak and presented him badly needed drugs for patients suffering from diabetes, heart conditions and kidney ailments.

The delegation, which arrived Sunday in Baghdad to discuss trade with the Iraqi government, said that the gift was from the Jordanian people and a token of Jordan's support for the Iraqis' steadfastness in the face of the four-year-international sanctions against Iraq.

Dr. Mubarak thanked the delegation, which is led by Jordan Businessmen Association (JBA) Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa, expressing Iraqi appreciation of the Jordanian aid. The Iraqis deeply thank the Jordanian institutions that have been providing assistance to Iraq, he said.

Dr. Mubarak said Iraqi hospitals face acute shortages of vital medicines and medical equipment. The shortages have been directly responsible for deaths and the outbreak of contagious diseases, he said.

Mr. Tabbaa and his team met Monday with Dr. Abdul Qader Abdul Rahman, ministry of industry secretary

general, to hear about Iraq's industrial programmes and plans for bolstering industrial ties with Jordan.

Mr. Tabbaa expressed readiness to accept Iraqi proposals for Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in industrial affairs.

The delegation also met Adnan Al Qusdi, chairman of the Iraqi Federation of Industries, and discussed cooperation in industry and the exchange of expertise.

Mr. Tabbaa said the JBA was ready to launch cooperation with Iraq in investment projects and in promoting trade exchanges.

He discussed prospects for private sector projects and laws that could be introduced to encourage foreign investment in Iraq.

The delegation also met Ministry of Industry and trade officials to discuss business deals with Iraq.

Iraq remains Jordan's biggest trade partner and it still gets most of its unauthorised imports like food and medicine via the port of Aqaba.

The JBA delegation, which ends the visit Wednesday, toured Iraqi projects and visited the Ameriyeh shelter which was bombed by the allies during the Gulf war.



LUCKY BUT SECRETIVE: Wearing a paper bag to hide his identity and in possession of a check for more than \$1.5 million, one of four winners of last week's Israeli lottery of 19 million shekels (\$6.3 million) Monday leaves the Israeli

state-owned "Mifal Hapais" in Tel Aviv. The company runs most of the legal gambling in the country and uses the considerable profits to build schools and sport facilities around the country (AFP photo)

## Embargo creates new breed of Iraqi billionaires

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A new breed of billionaires has sprung up in Iraq, thanks to the four-year international embargo on their country which has allowed them to swindle naive investors.

Sami Hassan Kadhem, a 34-year-old hairdresser, set up a bogus company called SAM-CO which made him 1.3 billion dinars (\$2.36 million).

He is one of three "billionaires" arrested recently by Iraqi police and paraded on television here Saturday in a programme on the new phenomenon which is hitting the Iraqi economy.

Many young people like Sami, looking to get rich quick, have set up bogus investment companies offering incredible interest rates of up to 100 per cent.

They have found their victims among various sections of a society where people often cannot afford to buy consumer goods and are anxious to invest their savings before they are made worthless.

He offered potential investors a monthly interest rate of 75 per cent. SAM-CO, which did not even have a headquarters, ended up with 161 agents working in cafes or visiting people's homes.

He offered potential investors a monthly interest rate of 75 per cent. SAM-CO, which did not even have a headquarters, ended up with 161 agents working in cafes or visiting people's homes.

less by runaway inflation, according to press reports.

The economy has been crippled by the United Nations embargo imposed on Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

No estimates have been given on the number of people who have fallen victim to these fictitious companies.

To lull their clients into a false sense of security, the conmen pay out the promised monthly interest using deposits from the ever-increasing number of new "shareholders" in their companies.

The television showed pictures of huge sacks full of Iraqi notes, seized from the homes of the three conmen and their accomplices who said they "never had anything to do with banks."

Earlier this month the Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said there were 150 investment companies which were "mostly bogus."

On Sunday the daily blasted the authorities for their slowness in cracking down on the swindlers, which

it said were an "extra burden" on the Iraqi economy.

"The phenomenon has almost paralysed the economy, because potential investors have been attracted by incredible profits offered by companies like SAM-CO," an Iraqi businessman told AFP.

As well as investors, many Iraqi families have been duped into selling their homes, cars and other possessions to invest money in companies later revealed to be bogus, newspapers say.

But despite the social and family problems they have caused, the swindles have had a beneficial effect on the Iraqi dinar by encouraging families to invest in their own currency rather than U.S. dollars, an Iraqi economist said.

The dinar's exchange rate has been stable for almost a month at 550 to the dollar, compared with 700 dinars to the dollar in summer.

King Fahd receives message from Mubarak

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sugar cane to be harvested early in Egypt

MINYA (AFP) — Egyptian authorities have ordered sugar producers in the troubled southern province of Minya to harvest their crops earlier than usual in a bid to prevent militants hiding in sugar cane fields, security officials said. Under an agreement reached between security officials, Minya provincial leaders and heads of sugar processing factories, the sugar cane harvest will start on Dec. 3 rather than at the end of the month, the officials said. Militants have been using the 33,000 hectares of crops as a hideout after carrying out attacks in the province, which lies about 240 kilometres south of Cairo. Most militant attacks have taken place in Minya since police launched a crackdown in August on the militant stronghold of Assuit, further south. Security officials agreed with sugar producers that new crops would be planted at least 50 metres away from roads, to help police catch militants attempting to flee into the sugar cane fields. Security officials promised to compensate farmers whose crops were damaged during recent searches for militants.

### Kuwait to charge expatriates for medical services

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti Health Ministry is to start charging expatriates for various medical services but emergency and preventive health care will remain free, the health minister said. Abdul Rahman Al Muhaian, quoted by newspapers, did not specify the size of charges or when they will be imposed. According to earlier press reports, the Kuwaiti council of ministers is to study next month the issue of imposing charges on certain public services including health care. The Health Ministry has provided most medical services free of charge since Kuwait's independence in the early 1960s. Mr. Muhaian has submitted a study on charges to be reviewed by the council of ministers, which says Kuwait will be exempted from paying fees except in limited cases. In April 1993 the Health Ministry started levying limited charges on certain medical services for expatriates only, including radiology services. "The purpose of levying the charges was to rationalise expenditure and stop abuse of drugs which have been provided free of charge so far," the minister said.

### King Fahd receives message from Mubarak

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi King Fahd on Sunday received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral ties and the situation in the Middle East, officials said here. The message was conveyed by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who arrived here Sunday for a visit lasting several hours. Mr. Musa held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal on "issues of joint interest and the current Arab and international situation." In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said Mr. Musa was also to brief King Fahd on the results of Mr. Mubarak's recent visit to Europe, which took him to Britain, Italy and Romania.

### Kuwait to write off Egyptian, Syrian debts

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti parliament agreed Sunday to write off Egyptian and Syrian debts worth some \$2.93 billion. The official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said Egypt's debt to the emirate stood at \$2.8 billion and Syria's at \$1.26 million. The finance and economy committee of the Kuwaiti parliament gave its approval after the government submitted a bill to cancel the debt in September. Egypt and Syria provided the largest Arab contingents in the U.S.-led multinational coalition that liberated Kuwait in February 1991, ending a seven-month Iraqi occupation. The government bill also proposed cancelling the interest on debts incurred by eight developing countries, including Chad, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia and Zambia.

### Snow cuts off 3,200 villages in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Blizzards have isolated 3,200 villages and forced schools closed in eastern Turkey. Weather officials said on Monday that snow had piled up over a metre in the provinces of Erzurum, Agri, Kars, Mus, Bingol and Ardahan. In Van, Hakkari and Bitlis provinces, hundreds of villages were cut off, the officials told the Anatolian news agency. Erzurum provincial authorities ordered all schools closed. Nine secondary roads connecting regional towns were blocked. Intercity highways were open but ice made traffic flow difficult. Forty-five teams were working to keep roads open but some village roads could be closed for a month. Storms tumbled utility poles in the southeastern province of Hakkari, cutting off power to the town of Semdinli.

### Sudan appoints rebel defectors to council

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has appointed seven more people, including three defectors from the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), to a special peace council, SUNA news agency said. The Higher Council for Peace, tasked with pursuing peace talks with the southern SPLA rebels, was set up by decree in September with 88 members. 40 from the south. SUNA said the newly appointed seven members included three southern Sudanese, two members of the Nuba tribe in southern Korodofan, and two northern Sudanese. The three southern Sudanese were recent prominent defectors from the SPLA, the news agency said. It named them as Simon Mori Didimo, Paul Anade, and John Kulung.

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:10 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman 4:10 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

	Upper	Lower	Price in lib. per kg
Apple	200	180	500
Banana	60	50	620
Banana (Mukamir)	60	50	620
Cabbage	130	120	130
Carrot	200	180	200
Cauliflower	300	280	300
Clementine	380	360	380
Crab	200	180	200
Cucumbers (large)	100	90	100
Cucumbers (small)	350	300	350
Eggplant	220	200	220
Garlic	600	500	600
Grape Fruit	200	180	200
Lemon	300	280	300
Marrow (large)	140	120	140
Marrow (small)	340	300	340
Onion (green)	200	180	200
Onion (dry)	200	180	200
Orange	200	180	200
Pepper (hot)	300	280	300
Pepper (sweet)	300	280	300
Potato	200	180	200
Spinach	300	280	300
Tomato	350	330	350

## Palestinians fall victim to cut in Israeli medical aid

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A nine-month-old baby, Ahmad Abu Shamak, struggled to breathe with the aid of oxygen equipment in the Nasser Childrens' Hospital in Gaza City, while doctors wait impatiently for him to undergo a life-saving operation abroad.

"We cannot operate on this baby here. He is suffering from a congenital heart complaint," says Dr. Sami Abu Della, head of the hospital's cardiology unit.

The baby will be sent to a hospital in Cairo once his father has obtained the necessary papers. "This could take a month and I'm

not sure Ahmad will survive," says the doctor bitterly.

There is not enough money to send the child to Israel for treatment.

Since the launch of Palestinian self-rule in May, Israel, which used to cover some of the costs of health treatment during the occupation, has refused to take in hundreds of sick Palestinians who cannot be treated in the Gaza Strip.

Cancer and heart patients, who cannot be treated in Gaza, are sent to the Mokassed Hospital in Arab East Jerusalem, Cairo or Amman, where hospital costs are on average six times lower than

Israel. Some cases have also been treated outside the Middle East, with the help of donations.

"Instead of sending patients to Tel Aviv at astronomical expense we should develop local services," says Palestinian Health Minister Riad Zaanoun. "This is the cruel choice forced on us by the conditions prevailing in the Gaza Strip after the Israeli occupation."

Not a single hospital was built during 27 years of occupation, and the number of hospital beds has remained the same, while the population has more than doubled."

There are seven public hos-

pitals with a total of 900 beds, for more than 800,000 Gazans.

"Our efforts are going into family health, preventive medicine and school health programmes," says Zaanoun, taking pride in the results achieved with only a meagre budget of \$30 million dollars for 1994-1995.

The 15 public clinics in the Gaza Strip have doubled their opening hours and school medical visits have been introduced. A new medical insurance scheme has also been launched.

But the funds are insufficient, and Israel's closure of the Strip only aggravates the

plight of the patients, who have to get special permits to cross Israeli territory.

Palestinian health authorities are impatient with the delays in the provision of international aid for the strife areas of Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank.

They say the Israelis should also contribute aid, given their responsibility for the present situation.

But there are still some rays of hope in Gaza's hospital.

While Ahmad Abu Shamak battles for life, seven-month-old Aya Elajel sleeps peacefully in an incubator in an adjacent ward.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

Allez Alles Pas De Marveilles

17:30 ... Un Pour Tous

18:00 ... Embarquement Partie

18:00 ... Le Vent Des Mâmoins

19:00 ... News in French

19:30 ... F.B.I. The Unplanned Story

20:00 ... Quantum Leap

21:10 ... Cracking The Code

22:00 ... News in English

22:30 ... The House of Elton

23:10 ... Fly By Night

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 ... Fajr

06:11 ... (Sunday) Dhuhr

11:15 ... Asr

14:37 ... Maghrib

17:58 ... Isha

18:10 ... Isha

18:25 ... Isha

18:30 ... Isha

18:45 ... Isha

18:50 ... I



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday receives visiting head of the Qatari General Commission on Youth and Sports, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Eid Al Thani. Attending the

meeting were Youth Minister Fawwaz Abu Ghanam and Qatari Ambassador to Jordan Nasser Abdul Aziz (right) (Petra photo)

## Regent reviews youth fields with visiting Qatari official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Monday received at Al Manar Palace the visiting head of the Qatari General Commission on Youth and Sports, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Eid Al Thani, and his accompanying delegation.

Prince Mohammad and the Qatari sheikh reviewed Jordanian-Qatari relations in sports and youth fields and duties assigned to the youth ministries in both countries.

The Regent stressed the need to enhance bilateral cooperation in these arenas and called for exchanging youth delegations.

He also asked Sheikh Mohammad to convey the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, who is currently on a visit to the United Kingdom, to the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani, and Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani.

Prince Mohammad conferred upon the visiting sheikh Al Kawakib Medal of the First Order and other high medals on the members of the Qatari accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Youth Minister Fawwaz Abu Ghanam and Qatari Ambassador in Amman Nasser Abdul Aziz.

Later Monday, the two sides signed a draft agreement on cooperation between the Kingdom and Qatar in sports and youth fields.

The memorandum was signed on the Jordanian side by Mr. Abu Ghanam and on the Qatari side by Sheikh Mohammad.

The two parties agreed that the final version of the agreement be signed during Mr. Abu Ghanam's coming visit to Qatar.

The date for the minister's visit will be decided later.

Also Monday, the Qatari delegation was received by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

Dr. Majali commanded Jordanian-Qatari relations and wished the visiting delegation success in its mission in Jordan.

The premier said Jordan views interaction between the youth in sports areas as one of the best means to enhance solidarity.

Sheikh Mohammad voiced satisfaction with Jordanian-Qatari relations.

Later, the delegation met with Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi for talks on means of enhancing bilateral relations.

In a statement to the press after the meeting, Sheikh Mohammad said he discussed with Dr. Majali and Mr. Hindawi issues of concern to youth and sports movements in both countries as well as bilateral relations.

The two parties agreed that the final version of the agreement be signed during Mr. Abu Ghanam's coming visit to Jordan.

The date for the minister's visit will be decided later.



AWARDING GRADUATES: Her Royal 45 graduates and awarded certificates of appreciation to excelling trainees and supporters of the society's activities. On the occasion, a tricot and knit-wear exhibition was held at the RCC. The society was founded in 1990 with the objective of training rural women and preserving rural and bedouin heritage. It also aims to help the needy and reduce demographic movement from rural and desert areas to urban centres (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Lebanon to settle trade issues in Beirut

BEIRUT (J.T.) — A Jordanian agricultural delegation Monday arrived in Beirut for talks on settling exchanges of agricultural products between Lebanon and Jordan and ways to overcome obstacles to the transportation of products, according to Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Orrabi.

Mr. Abu Orrabi told the Jordan Times that the delegation, which is led by Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif and includes Salem Lwazi, director of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) as well as merchants and leading farmers, is expected to sign a protocol on agricultural exchanges at the end of the meetings on Thursday.

Depending on the season, Jordan and Lebanon have been exchanging agricultural

products including melons, apricots, apples, cherries and tomatoes, but the exchange has often been bogged down because of the lack of proper bilateral exchange agreements, Mr. Abu Orrabi said.

He said the talks between the 10-member Jordanian delegation, which includes Rakan Al Faour, head of the Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA), were expected to be conducted mainly with the Lebanese private sector which usually handles agricultural matters, as well as Lebanese Minister of Agriculture Adej Qartas.

Mr. Ben Tarif said upon arrival in Beirut Monday that the visit at the invitation of the Lebanese government aimed at settling trade between the two sides.

The Lebanese minister said the Jordanian delegation's visit was in the course of coordination between the two countries in matters related to agricultural exchanges.

He said the two sides plan to sign an agreement providing for continued exchanges and solutions to problems such as those encountered in the past.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### FILM

★ Film (in German with subtitles in English) entitled "Verlorene Landschaft" at Goethe-Institut at 7:30 p.m.

#### CHARITY BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar (includes books, tapes, clothes, and accessories) at Mu'tah University.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Motor show '95 at the International Motor Exhibition, airport highway.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Saadi Al Kaabi at Alia Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of sculptures by Amer Khalil at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Mahmoud Taha at Darat Al Funun.

## 'Raising the number of civil servants will not solve unemployment, poverty'

### Premier discusses governorate issues in Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — The government can by no means solve the unemployment and poverty problems by appointing more people to serve in its public administration system because such a practice could only further inflate the system and render it obsolete, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday.

Speaking during a visit to Madaba Governorate, Dr. Majali said unemployment and poverty can only be solved by increasing investments in productive projects, which can take place in a climate marked by stability, security and peace.

By signing the peace treaty with Israel the country has entered a new phase requiring readiness to change, ability to become more competitive and preparations to cut on routine, said Dr. Majali.

The prime minister, who was replying to questions put to him at a meeting with members of the local executive council and deputies from the Madaba district, said that the new 1995 draft budget is considered ambitious enough to help the country carry out productive schemes and offer better services to the public.

Referring to the work of the executive council, Dr. Majali said the council should take charge of local issues such as school building requirements and stimulating the role of youth activities as well as promoting agricultu-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday attends a meeting of the Madaba Executive Council. Also attending the meeting were Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad

and Madaba deputies Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh, Abdin Majid Aqtash and Samih Farah (Petra photo)

road was responsible for numerous accidents.

Meanwhile it was announced Monday that the prime minister will fly to Accra, the capital of Ghana, in the Madaba region and improve telephone services. He also demanded that hospital services in Madaba district be expanded and upgraded.

Deputy Abdul Hafez Hababeh, the Madaba governor, presented an outline of the region's demands for public services and development

plans.

Madaba Deputy Abdul Hafez Shakhanbeh requested that the government construct a dam in Al Waleh area, set up an industrial city in the Madaba region and improve telephone services.

Jordan, the prime minister said, has been continually seeking to end differences among Arab states and looks forward to joint and collective action in the face of the challenges of peace.

Abdul Qader Hababeh, the Madaba governor, requested that the government enlarge the main road linking Amman with Madaba, noting that the narrowness of the

road was responsible for numerous accidents.

Meanwhile it was announced Monday that the prime minister will fly to Accra, the capital of Ghana,

to take part in a meeting of the board of trustees of the United Nations University.

Among the topics on the agenda is the establishment in Amman of a special university institute to train government leaders.

Dr. Majali will also meet with several Ghanaian officials to discuss Arab-African relations.

### Newspaper editor arrested, charged with libel

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian newspaper editor Abdul Rahim Aboushi was arrested and charged with libel Sunday evening as a result of accusations made earlier this year that he allegedly published false information in Al Rasif, a local tabloid, about a local doctor.

In the article, Mohammad Tamiah (a journalist for Al Rasif) wrote that surgery on a prolapsed disk performed by Ishaq Maraqqa in July 1993 resulted in the paralysis of the patient, Ibrahim Al Atar.

Under Jordanian law, the editor-in-chief of any paper assumes all responsibility for the content of the publication, which was why Mr. Aboushi was arrested. But, Faouad Saudi, Mr. Aboushi's attorney, expects that charges also will be brought against Mr. Tamiah. The defendant has entered a plea of not guilty.

According to Mr. Saudi, Dr. Maraqqa and his attorney agreed that the editor should be released until the matter is investigated further and a court date is determined — Mr. Aboushi was released yesterday on JD 500 bail raised by family members.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Maraqqa

said the article was absolutely not true, calling the whole incident a "professional insult." The only truth in the article, Dr. Maraqqa said, was that a surgery had been performed on the patient mentioned in the article.

Dr. Maraqqa, a practicing surgeon at Shmeisani Hospital and head of the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA), said that the surgery was not performed by him, but a colleague of his. However, Dr. Maraqqa stressed, "the patient was never paralysed."

The surgery did encounter a routine complication, he added. "There was infection at the site which is normal in a surgery, but there were no unusual complications." To his knowledge, the doctor said, the patient is now enjoying good health.

Mr. Aboushi's lawyer said Mr. Tamiah obtained the information from the patient, but also added that Dr. Maraqqa's lawyer said that the patient, Ibrahim Al Atar, has denied any knowledge about the matter and has said that he at no time made such allegations against the doctor.

Dr. Maraqqa said he had never been contacted by Mr. Tamiah to confirm or deny such allegations.

The claimant is seeking JD 1 million in restitution, according to Mr. Saudi.

Rain, cold expected through Thursday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Meteorology Department said the Kingdom will continue to be affected by a low atmospheric pressure centred north of Syria, with rainy and cold weather expected to last through Thursday. The department said the weather will start to improve Friday, although there will remain a possibility of scattered showers in the northern and central parts of Jordan. In the Gulf of Aqaba, the department said, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Regent congratulates Albania

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the Regent, Monday sent a cable to Albanian President Sali Berisha congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Albania's national day. Prince Mohammad wished Mr. Berisha good health and happiness and the Albanian people further progress and prosperity.

#### Rawabdeh meets Syrian assembly speaker

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Education Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Monday met with Speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly Abdul Qader Qaddoura. Mr. Rawabdeh and Mr. Qaddoura discussed issues related to the fifth conference of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

#### PSD issues lesser pilgrimage rule

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday said it will allow Jordanian citizens to host relatives coming from Israel to perform the lesser pilgrimage (Umra) to Mecca and Medina for a maximum period of one week. The PSD urged those willing to host relatives to call at the PSD's Residence and Borders Directorate in Abdali beginning today to obtain the needed permits.

## 'Peace era to pose serious challenges to higher education'

that Israeli universities seldom encounter problems and they actively participate in drawing up socio-economic policies for the Jewish state and take the lead in scientific research schemes.

Victor Billeh, head of the National Centre for Educational Research and Development (NCERD), addressed the conference saying that raising the efficiency and skills of teachers and improving educational programmes constitutes the major issues facing the educational development process in the Kingdom.

Drawing a contrast between Jordanian and Israeli universities, Dr. Saoud said that the narrowness of the

training of teachers are being prepared.

In addition, Dr. Billeh said, special attention is being given to vocational training to meet the country's labour market needs, and new school buildings are being constructed to replace rented premises.

Kamal Duwani, head of the Educational Department at the Educational Sciences Faculty, said that the seminar was part of a series of meetings to help rally support for the ongoing efforts aimed at promoting education.

University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharibeh was among the audience attending the seminar.

### University students to boycott classes

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than 1,000 University of Jordan students are expected to boycott classes today after negotiations with the university administration concerning the 60 grade system.

Dr. Maraqqa said he had never been contacted by Mr. Tamiah to confirm or deny such allegations.

The claimant is seeking JD 1 million in restitution, according to Mr. Saudi.

In a statement issued by the student union, it called on more than 4,500 engineering and science students not to report to classes Tuesday in protest.

The problem arose nearly three weeks ago when the student union asked the university administration to adjust the current academic examination regulations which stipulate that students retaking courses they have failed can only attain a maximum of 60 per cent and at the same time, the failing grade would not be added to the student's transcript.

The student union is calling for the elimination of the 60-point grade system and allowing the scored grade to be added to the student's grade point average and not the failing grade.

According to Mohammad Khreisat, dean of stu-

dents, the university is reviewing its records to determine if it is necessary to adjust or change the current law.

The main reason the university is hesitant about changing the regulations, Dr. Khreisat said, is that some students might take advantage of the new changes and fail the courses purposely.

This, he added, is a waste of the student's time and adds more pressure on the university because it requires increasing the number of staff and classes to overcome the increasing numbers of those students who retake courses.

According to Dr. Khreisat, the administration will conclude its review on Wednesday, and "based on it, we will take the necessary procedures," he said.

But one union member told the Jordan Times: "If the university does not respond to our demands, we will continue our protest and call on students at other faculties to join us, until this problem is solved."

He said that the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged \$1 million for the execution of the "awareness and conservation" campaign which started a year ago.

It is through the NGOs and local leaders of various communities that the Water and Irrigation Ministry is trying to educate citizens on the scarcity of water resources in the Kingdom, and the urgent need to conserve, added Dr. Bani Hani.

## Water ministry seeks NGO help in dealing with water problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is seeking continued cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as the Jordan Environment Society (JES) (formerly the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution) in dealing with water problems and shortages in the country, according to Mohammad Bani Hani, the ministry's general director.

Cooperation in water related issues, protection of water resources from pollution and sound management of

those resources are needed to ensure sustainable development, said Dr. Bani Hani at the opening of a three-day workshop held at Amra Hotel to discuss the organisation of a national campaign for rationalising water consumption.

Dr. Bani Hani told the Jordan Times that the workshop was part of wide-ranging campaign to spread public awareness of the importance of water consumption.

He said attention is now being directed towards the rural regions following campaigns that were held earlier.

## Berlusconi ready to face accusers

ROME (R) — Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, declaring "I have nothing to hide", said Monday he was ready to meet Milan's "clean hands" investigators at any time and on their own turf to answer allegations of corruption.

"If they want, and if (my) lawyer agrees, I can be in Milan and in front of the magistrates in 10 minutes," Mr. Berlusconi told the newspaper *La Repubblica* as he began a vital week in his battle to stay in power.

Dismissing talk that he would be questioned at a secret location, he said the meeting would take place at the Milan Prosecutor's Office.

"I have nothing to hide and I've got to Italians as prime minister," Mr. Berlusconi said. "Any day is good for me."

The magistrates, whose investigations into graft topped Italy's political old guard, asked to question Mr. Berlusconi last Tuesday when they informed him he was under inquiry for alleged cor-

ruption involving his Fininvest business empire.

No date has been set for the questioning session.

News of the investigation marked Mr. Berlusconi's blackest week since he entered politics in January with promises to blast graft from government.

The media tycoon has since fought back, swearing on the lives of his five children that he had done nothing wrong.

He is due to meet his coalition cabinet at 0900 GMT Tuesday for a test of loyalty in which he will ask his fractious partners to rally round a programme for government over the coming months.

Mr. Berlusconi will also meet trade unions Wednesday, with his aides talking optimistically of prospects for a deal on his contentious 1995 austerity budget that would avert an eight-hour general strike Friday and ease its parliamentary passage.

A successful outcome at both meetings would strengthen Mr. Berlusconi's hand and banish the immediate

prospect that he may be forced to stand down, political analysts believe.

The Northern League, however, has made clear it will not only support Mr. Berlusconi until the budget, designed to cut \$30 billion from next year's deficit, has been approved.

The budget bill, from which unions want controversial pensions reforms decoupled, must by law be passed by parliament by the end of the year.

League leader Umberto Bossi, Mr. Berlusconi's biggest and most combative partner, said his federalist party would then insist on a thorough review of the future of their shaky alliance.

"If we had to replace him (Berlusconi), what would the problem be? When one Pope dies you choose another," Mr. Bossi told *La Repubblica*.

"Berlusconi is proving himself incapable of governing. He's not got much time left to prove the oppo-

sition," Mr. Bossi said.

The probe into Mr. Berlusconi covers allegations that companies in his \$7 billion a year media-to-retailing empire bribed tax police in return for favourable audits.

Mr. Berlusconi insisted in interviews that he had no knowledge of the payments but said he regarded them as extortion.

"It was outright robbery at our expense," he said.

Mr. Berlusconi has portrayed the investigation against him as part of a political conspiracy and sought to depict himself as the only man capable of governing Italy.

"This is not justice. There have been repeated attempts to get me," Mr. Berlusconi told *La Repubblica*.

About 7,000 people demonstrated in his support in the northern city of Turin Sunday.

"I'm going ahead because I know that is my duty and because it's what my country needs," Mr. Berlusconi told the Turin newspaper *La Stampa*.

## Russia rejects Chechen charge of involvement

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia curtly rejected Monday allegations that it had supplied weapons and troops to pro-Moscow forces fighting to oust the leader of the breakaway Caucasian Republic of Chechnya.

The denial by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev quoted by Interfax News Agency came the day after Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev claimed on Moscow television that Russian troops had taken part in an unsuccessful two-day opposition assault on his capital Grozny.

Gen. Grachev told Interfax that if the Russians had participated, "just one regiment of Russian paratroopers would have been enough to settle the problem within two hours."

"There are lots of mercenaries from Afghanistan, the Baltic and other countries currently fighting alongside the forces of Dzhokhar Dudayev," Gen. Grachev charged.

Mr. Dudayev who proclaimed his small republic independent from Russia in 1991, said Sunday that his forces had "completely routed" the opposition which attacked Grozny Saturday using planes and helicopters.

"It is Russian aggression and open military operations," Mr. Dudayev insisted.

"All crews are Russian to a man, the military professional equipment is Russian. What opposition in the world has ever had assault aircraft?"

"I responsibly state that Russia's supreme political leadership is intentionally whipping up the situation in order to unleash a colossal Caucasian-Russian war," Mr. Dudayev told Moscow television in an interview.

Mr. Dudayev said Russians captured by his troops would be shot unless Moscow acknowledged they belonged to the Russian Armed Forces.

"The Russians we are holding will be treated like prisoners of war if Moscow acknowledges them. If they are mercenaries, they will be shot," Mr. Dudayev told journalists Sunday night in his presidential palace.

Interfax News Agency quoted Chechen security officials as saying nearly 70 Russian nationals could be executed Tuesday.

On Monday the situation in Grozny was calm after opposition forces withdrew about 20 kilometres from the city Sunday. Rebel leaders said they had pulled back to "regroup" and refused to admit defeat.

But a rebels' officer who asked not to be identified said Monday that opposition forces had suffered heavier losses than the 25 dead they had admitted to losing.

He said about 100 opposition soldiers had died in the fighting while Mr. Dudayev's army leadership said between 200 opposition troops had been killed.

There was no word on government troops losses.

The rebel officer said anti-Dudayev forces had advanced Saturday on the city centre from four directions but had been caught in a hail of fire from Mr. Dudayev forces posted on roofs and armed with grenade launchers.

On Monday most of the windows in the city centre were blown out and the pavements were cracked and covered in broken glass and



A burned corpse lies near a tank of the Chechen opposition troops, which was destroyed during a battle between government forces and Moscow-backed rebels for control over the Chechen capital of Grozny. Opposition forces have reportedly withdrawn, after an unsuccessful attempt to capture the city (AFP photo)

debris, testifying to the intensity of the combat.

Meanwhile Russian Khabulatov, former Supreme Soviet speaker and a leader of the Chechen opposition, was quoted in an Interfax report as calling for children to be evacuated from Grozny to protect them from possible bombardment.

Russia's Security Council was to hold an emergency meeting Monday on the latest fighting in Chechnya, the Interfax News Agency reported.

The council, the country's top national security body headed by President Boris Yeltsin, had been scheduled to start at 1200 GMT, Ivan Rybkin, the speaker of the Duma, or lower house, said.

"Chechnya is regardless of what anyone says, one of the Russians' Federation's subjects and we would like to have the different clans in the republic reach a peace accord," Mr. Rybkin said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigori Karassin would not comment on the latest fighting in the republic saying only that he considered Chechnya a part of the Russian Federation "and whatever happens there is an internal Russian issue."

## Body shop brings eco-friendly feminism to Saudis

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (R) — The British founder of the body shop cosmetics chain, Anita Roddick, said Sunday she is spreading her message of eco-friendly feminism in business in Saudi Arabia. Body shop, which grew from one small shop to a multi-million-dollar group using alternative business methods, saw turnover rise by 28 per cent last year in conservative Muslim Saudi Arabia where women wear veils in public. Mascara for the eyes, often the only visible part of a woman's face, and perfume, used widely by Arabian women for centuries, are the biggest sellers and henna has also been a big success. "You have to be creative when doing business here," Ms. Roddick, who has 1,200 shops in 45 countries, told Reuters in an interview during a visit to the kingdom. "For us, the interesting route is explaining our philosophy of change to customers and business leaders here," she said. Body Shop International Plc, whose world turnover was up 18 per cent in the first six months of this year to more than £200 million (over \$300 million), has 18 shops in Saudi Arabia. The group does not break down revenue by country.

## Hanoi Hilton wall tumbles

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Workmen have begun knocking down the wall of the Hanoi Hilton prison, where U.S. servicemen were shackled and tortured during the Vietnam War, in preparation for building a real hotel on the site. One of the former PoWs, retired Navy Capt. Cole Black, carried away a few souvenir bricks Sunday when he, his wife and other American tourists stopped at the site, a place of pilgrimage for returning Veterans. They peeked in the front gate at the cells blocks. Then they walked outside the mustard-yellow walls topped with barbed wire and broken glass to the rear, where workers with a backhoe and sledgehammers had opened a hole big enough for trucks to enter. "They liked to put people in irons — medieval-type punishment," Capt. Black recalled later. "The treatment was very bad." The prison, whose real name is the Hoa Lo, was built by the colonial French government and held Vietnamese nationalists and Communists during the 1940s and 1950s. After the United States began sending troops to prop up non-Communist South Vietnam against the Communist North, the prison became notorious for holding American PoWs, who coined the nickname.

## Cuban cigars to be auctioned

ZURICH (AFP) — A private collection of precious Cuban cigars will be auctioned by Sotheby's on Dec. 9 in Zurich. The collection, belonging to Gerard Vahe, includes specimens produced exclusively for the French "Club des Parlementaires," which will be offered at a starting price of 10,000 French francs (\$1,800) a box.

## High fertility treatments seen unsuccessful

NEW YORK (R) — More than eight out of 10 who try high-tech fertility treatments to conceive are unsuccessful, according to the latest issue of U.S. News And World Report. The issue on newsstands Monday, dated Dec. 5, reports that Americans spent \$2 billion on high-tech procedures in the past year. Last year, government statistics showed 1.4 million women sought medical help for infertility, the magazine reported. In 1992, the most recent year for which the fertility industry has provided information, about 37,000 couples went the high-tech route, but only 5,556 successfully conceived. An opinion poll released Friday shows support for sovereignty has increased slightly since the election, but about 23 per cent of the 1,005 people surveyed were undecided.

When the undecided votes were factored in, about 46 per cent favoured sovereignty while 54 per cent were against it. During the election support for separation waned to around 40 per cent.

Mr. Parizeau said the latest survey confirms three national polls conducted over the past few weeks by the party.

As a result, Mr. Parizeau has spent the last two months talking about job creation and improving the economy.

But political analysts think

## Australia pledges aid to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Australia has pledged some \$65 million in aid to Cambodia over the next four years, and is expected to boost military assistance to Phnom Penh to help fight the Khmer Rouge, the Australian ambassador here said Monday.

"The need for military aid is quite clear," the ambassador said, adding that the aid would be aimed at improving the "quality and discipline of the Cambodian armed forces."

But, he added, "the strongest weapon against the Khmer Rouge is the economic and social development of the country. That is where we will continue to put our main emphasis."

Mr. Kevin was speaking at a signing ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presided over by Finance Minister Keat Chhion.

The Australian ambassador said the aid programme, which had no "secrets or hidden objectives," concentrated on four main areas: health, education, agriculture and infrastructure.

## Quebec separatists ready to roll to independence

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec's separatist Parti Quebecois plans to put the wheels of independence in motion this week when it convenes the provincial legislature for the first time since becoming the French-speaking province's government.

Premier Jacques Parizeau is expected to lay out his government's strategy regarding its ultimate goal — independence for Quebec from Canada — during a speech Tuesday to open the new session of the legislature, called the National Assembly.

"We must begin early," Mr. Parizeau said Friday after a two-day cabinet meeting to hammer out the strategy.

Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura was quoted by a ministry official as telling Mr. Soskova earlier that Japan may convert part of the \$500 million it has allocated as humanitarian aid for Russia into loans for economic projects.

Mr. Soskova told him: "We consider the Tokyo Declaration as the basis for improvement of the future bilateral relations. It is verified that such a direction is correct."

The disputed islands off Northern Japan — Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group — were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

Russia refers to them as the South Kuriles while Japan regards them as its Northern Territories.

A previous referendum on

separation was defeated in 1980 by a three-to-two margin.

The Parti Quebecois has not talked much about the details of a referendum campaign or even when it plans to hold the vote. In the two months since its victory over the Liberals, the focus has mainly been on improving the economy.

This is due mainly to a lower-than-expected margin of victory in the popular vote in the Sept. 12 election. Although the Parti Quebecois garnered 77 of the 125 seats in the National Assembly, it won by less than one per cent in popular vote.

Many Quebecers had voted for the Parti Quebecois not as a rubber stamp approval for separation but as a change from nine straight years of Liberal rule which brought double-digit unemployment, high taxes and a rising deficit.

When the undecided votes were factored in, about 46 per cent favoured sovereignty while 54 per cent were against it.

As a result, Mr. Parizeau has spent the last two months talking about job creation and improving the economy.

But political analysts think

Mr. Parizeau will now switch gears in order to build support for separation.

Mr. Parizeau agreed, saying the time is now right.

"We have developed a habit of walking and chewing gum at the same time and there are a certain number of economic and financial things that are important and the referendum is as well," he said.

An opinion poll released Friday shows support for sovereignty has increased slightly since the election, but about 23 per cent of the 1,005 people surveyed were undecided.

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# World News

Body shop  
eco-friendly  
feminism to  
Saudis

## Premier predicts 'yes' in tight Norway EU vote

OSLO (R) — Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland predicted Norwegians would say "yes" to Europe Monday after casting her vote in a referendum on European Union (EU) membership as final opinion polls turned the vote into a last-gasp thriller.

"I believe in victory. You can see it in my face that I really do," a beaming Brundtland told reporters at a polling station in the wealthy Oslo suburb of Bygdoy.

As the second and final day of voting got under way, a poll by the Scan-Facts Institute published in the daily *Verdens Gang* showed "yes" ahead by 50.7 per cent to 49.3 per cent for the first time in the month-long campaign.

A poll by MMI in the *Dagbladet* daily forecast a 50-50 per cent result and a Nielsen Norge survey in *Arbeiderbladet* predicted a "no" win by 52 to 48 per cent. The "yes" camp has gained five per cent on average in polls over the last two weeks.

"We are seeing an increasingly stronger involvement and understanding for what a 'yes' would mean for Norway," said the premier, waging the toughest battle of a long political career.

A majority of Norway's 3.2 million voters, many of whom fear giving up sovereignty to a faraway Brussels bureaucracy, have been widely projected to oppose membership, as they did in a similar referendum in 1972.

But the "no" camp's lead



Norwegian twins, one asleep holding a poster saying "Yes", the other saying "No", sit in their stroller in Drammen outside Oslo. Opinion polls have consistently indicated that a

majority of Norwegians oppose EU membership, but the "Yes" side has slowly gained ground and could be within reach of an upset. (AFP photo)

in opinion polls has gradually shrunk to between two and eight percentage points Sunday and the dead-heat Monday.

Mrs. Brundtland, the Social Democrat leading the "yes" forces, and Centre Party leader Anne Enger Lahmstein, dubbed the "no queen" by the media, made final appeals for a high turnout.

"Everybody must vote today and show responsibility so that Norway will not be left alone on the outside. You who are still hesitating can secure a 'yes'." Mrs. Brundtland said in *Verdens Gang*.

"Those who are for 'no' must vote even if the weather is bad. Every vote counts," Ms. Lahmstein told the newspaper.

Half of Norway's 435 voting districts opened their polling stations Sunday and electoral officials reported an unusually heavy turnout, despite harsh weather in the far north and freezing fog around the capital.

Polling stations are open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (0800-2000 GMT). Television stations are expected to broadcast results of exit polls soon after voting ends, although

full results could take hours to be registered.

Unlike neighbouring Sweden and Finland, which both voted to join the EU from Jan. 1 in referendums in the past six weeks, a passionate debate over Norway's relationship with the rest of Europe has split the country down the middle.

Mrs. Brundtland has urged her intransigent countrymen to join their Nordic neighbours in entering the EU in order to gain a voice in shaping the economy, peace and environment of Europe.

## No mini-summit on Angola in Morocco — Soares

LISBON (AFP) — Portuguese President Mario Soares Monday denied reports that a mini-summit on Angola has taken place in the Moroccan capital Rabat after holding talks here with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

Soares declared that the basis for an end to the civil war that began on Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975 was the Lusaka protocol signed by the Luanda government and UNITA rebels on Nov. 20.

There are no other proposals," Mr. Soares said. Now it was "necessary to give continuity" to the protocol, which led to a ceasefire that took effect Tuesday last week.

The regular army and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have each accused the other of violations of the pact, but U.N. personnel in Luanda have said they have no reports of major problems.

On Monday, the influential Portuguese daily speculated the UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi was attending a mini-summit in capital Rabat Monday as part of a bid to push ahead with a political settlement following the ceasefire.

The Lisbon newspaper considered in an editorial that Mr. Savimbi could be having talks with Mr. Soares.

Dr. Ghali, Morocco's King Hassan II and South African President Nelson Mandela, who have all been in Rabat.

King Hassan has been close to Mr. Savimbi and offered to mediate in the Angolan conflict. Mr. Man-



South African President Nelson Mandela (right) confers with Secretary General of the United Nations Boutros Ghali before their dinner with Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali. Mr. Mandela arrived here Sunday morning for a private two-day visit (AFP photo)

del also became involved after his African National Congress swept to power in South Africa's historic first all-race elections this year.

But Dr. Ghali declared Monday that he had held talks with Mr. Soares to "exchange views," made no mention of Mr. Savimbi's whereabouts and said he and the Portuguese leader had come up with no "new proposals."

Mr. Savimbi is said by UNITA to be in his own country, but he failed personally to turn up and sign the peace protocol as scheduled with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos in Lusaka.

The pact, which provides for a political settlement and

the demobilisation of the rival armies, was signed by their aides. UNITA blamed Mr. Savimbi's absence on offensives by government troops, but he has on past occasions expressed considerable concern for his own security.

A previous 1991 peace pact collapsed when UNITA lost general elections in September 1992, and a climate of mistrust, both Mr. Savimbi and the government have come under considerable international pressure to reach a new settlement.

The Angolan government has said it will only deal with the issue of Mr. Savimbi's "special status" once he re-emerges into the open.

When government troops pressed home an offensive

and captured Mr. Savimbi's stronghold in the central highlands city of Huambo early this month, Mr. Soares twice reportedly telephoned the UNITA leader.

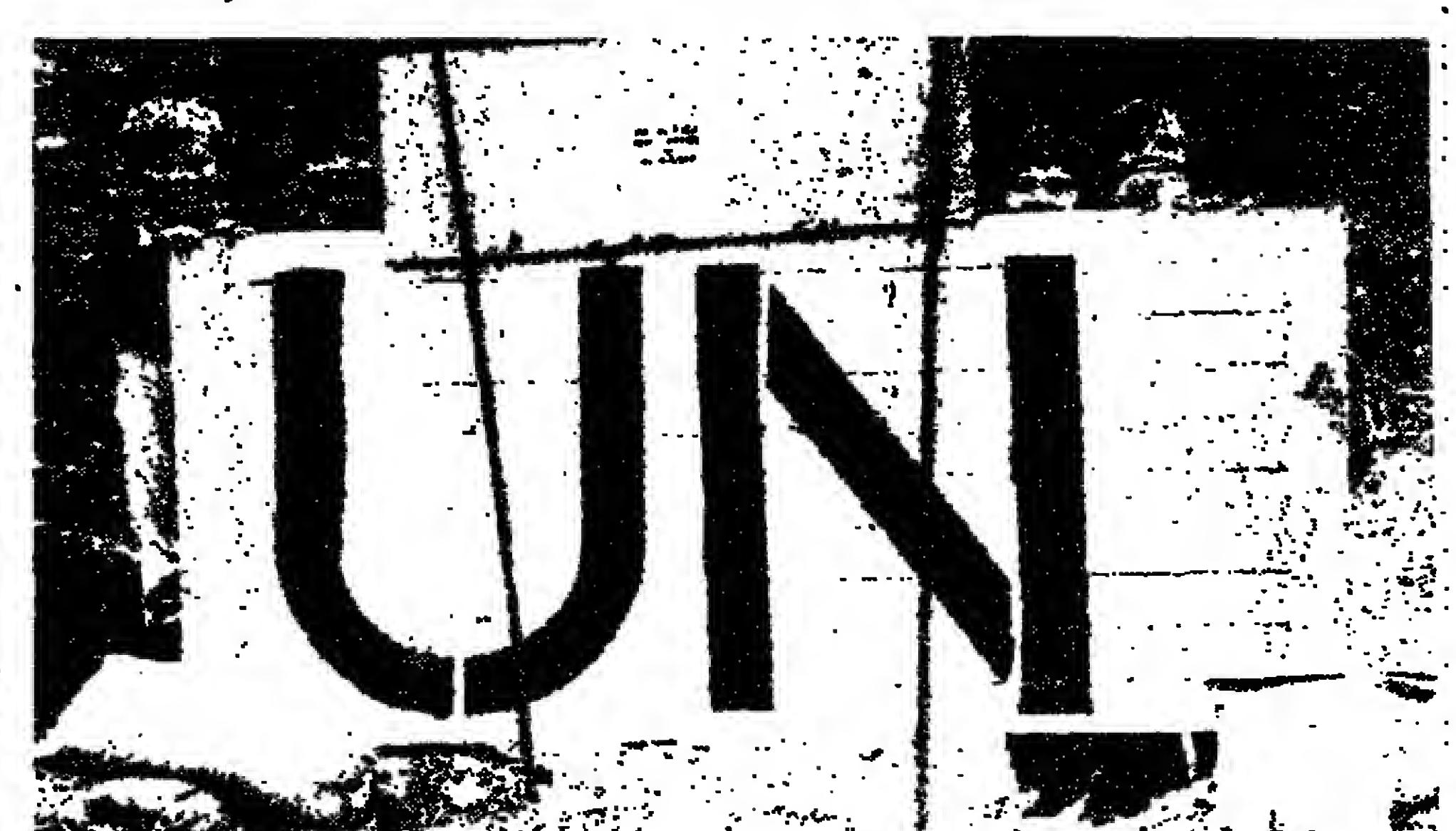
This annoyed Mr. Dos Santos so much that the latter has refused to attend this week's summit of Portuguese-speaking nations here, the *Diario De Noticias* reported.

Mr. Mandala was making "a private visit" to Rabat, precisely at a time when the South African government, especially through more affordable housing and new jobs with more flexible working hours.

It was the final electoral hurdle this year for Mr. Kohl, 64, who saw his coalition's majority dramatically slashed in October and then won re-election in parliament as chancellor this month with only one vote to spare.

At the Congress, only 51 of the 929 congress delegates voted against Mr. Kohl and another 14 abstained. The remaining 864 all backed Mr. Kohl, who ran unopposed.

Mr. Kohl has pledged to retire from the chancellorship in 1998, when he will have ruled for 16 years — the longest period by any German chancellor.



Muslim children from the village just outside joint Muslim-Croatian check-point (AFP photo)

## U.S. agrees to incentives for Bosnia Serbs, Serbia to end war

LONDON (R) — The United States, under pressure from European allies trying to end the war in Bosnia, has agreed to offer the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia fresh incentives as part of a new peace push by major powers, diplomats said Monday.

The diplomats told Reuters Washington reluctantly agreed to the approach at a meeting of officials from the five-nation "contact group" in Paris Sunday.

Foreign ministers from the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany meet in Brussels Friday and are now expected to offer new concessions to stop the fighting, since the threat of NATO military might has failed to do so.

This will include giving the Bosnian Serbs the right to form a confederation with Serbia if they accept the international peace plan that they have so far rejected. The plan would divide Bosnia in half between the Serbs and the Muslim-Croat alliance.

In addition, Serbia will be offered more relief from U.N. sanctions if it helps to bring the Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan and agrees to a scheme that would ease long-running tensions with Croatia.

Until now, the United States has fiercely opposed offering any fresh concessions to the Serbs and has taken a pro-Muslim line in Europe's worst conflict since World War II. This has caused a major rift within NATO and with Russia.

The latest agreement could provoke fresh criticism of the U.S. administration from the Congress, which could yet force President Bill Clinton to lift an international arms embargo for the Muslim-led government unilaterally.

"The Americans have gone along with this because they realise there's now not much alternative, but it's risky for them in domestic terms," said one diplomat.

With the failure of the United Nations and NATO to defend the Muslim enclave of

argued that the Bosnian Serbs should simply be given the same rights as the Muslim-Croat alliance, which could forge links with Croatia.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Monday concessions to Serbia would be possible only if Belgrade made real efforts and recognised Bosnia's borders as "unambiguous abandonment of the dream of a greater Serbia."

A statement issued Monday on behalf of the contact group maintained a facade of unity and vowed to pursue diplomatic efforts this week. "The contact group is united in its demand for an immediate ceasefire in BiHac and the cessation of hostilities throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina in pursuit of the territorial settlement proposed by the contact group," it said.

Washington, which blames the Serbs for the war, had previously refused to accept the idea that Bosnian Serbs might be able to link their territory in an agreement with Belgrade that might fulfil the dream of a "greater Serbia."

This, U.S. officials always said, would reward Serb aggression and threaten the future territorial integrity of Bosnia as a sovereign state. But European powers have

Bosnian Serbs.

Foreign ministers of European Union governments met in Brussels Monday in an attempt to salvage the credibility of international peacekeeping in Bosnia.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel forecast the EU session would be difficult after successful Serb defiance of the U.N.'s writ in BiHac and of NATO airpower.

A six-day onslaught against BiHac town and its population of more than 60,000 Muslims has driven a ceasefire rift between U.N. peacekeepers and NATO and between the Western allies themselves.

Serb forces avenging a defeat by the Bosnian government army's BiHac-based 5th Corps have made the alliance and the U.N. look politically and militarily helpless.

Senator Robert Dole said on television: "I think we have a complete breakdown of NATO ... the U.N. probably ought to leave (Bosnia) ... because in my view what they have done from the start is to help the Serb aggressors."

Opening the one-day conference, he urged the conservative party to promote more women leaders and provide more help to families with children as a way to broaden its appeal in the future.

Mr. Kohl told his party it had to reserve one-third of its posts for women — a group in which support for the conservatives is notably weak.

The party had to boost its appeal by giving more help for families with children, especially through more affordable housing and new jobs with more flexible working hours.

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"If we want to get a start into the future, we have to do it now," declared the veteran chancellor, whose centre-right coalition won a fourth term on Oct. 16 with a dramatically reduced majority of only 10 seats out of 672 in parliament.

"We won't have much time — four years are a short time."

Mr. Kohl, unchallenged at the top of the CDU after 12 years as chancellor, has forced his party to think hard

about its future by pledging to step down in 1998.

Stressing the need to broaden its appeal beyond the veteran chancellor's campaign skills, one CDU official described the party's challenge by saying: "We have to turn Kohl voters into CDU voters."

The women's quota, the call to help young families with children and the plan to localise the party's appeal in the future.

Critics — both men and women — spoke out against the plan last week but CDU officials said it was expected to pass.

The CDU parliamentary group has the lowest percentage of women of all parties — 13.9 per cent, far lower than the overall 26.3 per cent average in the newly-elected parliament.

A CDU study said support for the party was weakest among young women voters. They have flocked to the ecologist Greens, whose parliamentary faction has 59.2 per cent women.

Mr. Kohl said the CDU, long opposed to the women's quotas introduced in the 1980s by the leftist Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens, still had far too few women in leading jobs despite years of appeals to local organisations to promote them.

"For a long time, I belonged to those who said it was enough to make appeals," he said. "I will confess today clearly that I have failed with this position."

He urged the party to back a proposed quota that would

## Kohl easily re-elected CDU party leader

BONN (R) — Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) re-elected Helmut Kohl as its chairman Monday for the 11th time, with 94.4 per cent of delegates voting for him at a party congress on Bonn.

The result, slightly lower than his 1990 score 95.5 per cent, reflected Mr. Kohl's continued strong base within the ruling party despite falling voter support for the CDU in the Oct. 16 general election.

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## Jordan Times

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## Challenge that lies ahead

**THE KILLING** of Rabbi Ami Ulami, presumably by Hamas guerrillas, near Hebron on Sunday has stirred yet another hornet's nest for the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks that were resumed in Brussels Monday. The redeployment of Israeli troops in the occupied territories is now at stake as the Israeli prime minister hinted again on the day the rabbi was shot that the outcome of the impending negotiations with the Palestine National Authority (PNA) hinged on its ability to disarm Hamas and the Islamic Jihad group. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has succeeded in preventing a public display of arms by those opposition groups in autonomous areas in the aftermath of the bloody clash in Gaza city on Nov. 18 but has so far refrained from going any further. Obviously this "success" is not sufficient for the Israeli government, which is now seeking to up the ante for the PNA by insisting that only the security forces in the Palestinian self-rule areas should remain armed. No doubt Mr. Arafat knows that as long as opponents of his peace deal with Israel are carrying weapons they will continue to pose a formidable challenge to his authority and undermine his control over the autonomous areas.

Sooner or later the PNA will have to reckon with this problem and deal with it effectively either by peaceful means or by the exercise of the police powers vested in it. The big issue that remains is when to embark on this task, given that it will be necessary somewhere along the line. One thing is sure though, and that is no matter when any head-on armed confrontation with Hamas and Islamic Jihad takes place, it will be bloody and costly. It is never certain that the PNA would resort to the option of an armed conflict in view of the widespread support for opposition within the Palestinian ranks. In retrospect Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would be better advised not to push too hard for such a bloody clash as it could only precipitate chaos and disintegration of the whole peace effort. Thus the choice of incorporating Hamas and other opposition groups into this effort should be left for the discretion of the PNA. One thing is for sure though, when a date for Palestinian elections for the self-rule council draws nearer, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad will both busy themselves with electioneering and thereafter with opposing Mr. Arafat and engaging the Israelis in a more peaceful manner. And this is where both Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin should concentrate their joint effort.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER IN Al Ra'i daily expressed apprehension over the 1995 fiscal budget which, he said, was bound to increase Jordan's foreign debts. Tareq Masa'weh said that the budget figures do not give any real regard nor give priority to agriculture or technological research designed to increase food production. The increase in this year's budget over the past year's does not correspond to the increase in national production, nor does it deal with the question of unemployment and the inflated public administration system or improve its performance. The frenzy of peace should not prompt us to make plans for projects which we can by no means afford finance, lest we should fall in more debts which we can never settle, warned the writer. He said that the government ought to give priority to controlling the spiralling prices of basic commodities, give priority to projects of agricultural production and stem the trend of more imports by the private sector. He said that the increase in the volume of the fiscal budget this year is not compatible with the cancellation of part of Jordan's foreign debts as promised by the creditor nations as the price of peace the Kingdom made with Israel. Furthermore, he said, the public administration system is showing more and more weakness every year while Parliament is not doing enough to monitor and control the public administration's performance.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour advocated the cause of Ministry of Education teachers who, he said, are being required to stay in their school until the end of the school day though they might have completed their duty in the classrooms. Mohammad Subeih said that it is unfair to ask teachers to remain behind as many of them feel they have preparations for classes which they can only conduct in a more comfortable climate at home. Furthermore, most schools lack proper heating systems and do not tempt teachers to stay after classes, especially if they feel obliged to go home after carrying out their duty in full to prepare for their courses of higher education they are taking at the university to raise their standards, said the writer.

## The View from Fourth Circle

### If it ain't working so well, fix it

The mid-term election in the United States earlier this month ushered in the third worldisation of American culture. It confirmed the anti-government, anti-incumbent mood that pollsters had been identifying for many months, but it also may have revealed a much more interesting historical trend in the United States: a move away from strict secularism and the separation of religion and state. Watching this election from within the United States, I often had the sensation that I was, in fact, still in the Middle East, for both cultures are now heavily influenced by the forces of politicised religion — Islam in the Middle East and Christianity in the US.

The active support of rightwing Christian fundamentalist groups achieved two important goals in this election: it moved the centre of gravity of the Republican Party to the right (which means the Democrats will move right with it to keep up), and it helped gain victory for many conservative Republicans.

Eight new senators and 43 new House of Representatives members identified with Christian right values swept into office, thanks in part to thirty million voting guides distributed by the Christian Coalition, the single largest and most important national Christian political group. Republican voter turnout increased in every part of the country, and therefore sixty per cent of the six-hundred candidates for local, state and national offices who were supported by religious conservatives won their elections.

What does this trend represent, and how does it relate to trends in the Middle East? Clearly, Americans and Arabs are reacting in similar ways to a set of common ailments and challenges: states are increasingly unable to meet people's needs or even to reflect their cultural or national identity. Consequently, the people are trying to modify the nature and role of the state, and the manner in which government wields political and economic power.

That ordinary people in societies as different as the United States and the Arab World are reacting to similar problems in common political ways suggests that we witness today nothing less than the first global expression of disenchantment with the secular nation-state in its present configuration. The modern nation-state as a political/cultural unit was born in England and France in the 16th/17th centuries, and it spread around the world through Euro-imperialism in the 18th-19th centuries.

It may be fraying at the edges of its global diffusion, to judge by events around the world since 1990. As the post-cold war era now exposes the deficiencies of the secular nation-state model in many parts of the world, tribalism, ethnically and religious nationalism emerge as the most important identity forms that challenge and seek to provide an alternative to it. It may also need some redesigning in its own heartland along the North Atlantic rim, to judge by electoral results in 1993-1994 in the US, Canada and Western Europe, where conservatives, religious rightists, and devolutionary regionalists have all scored big gains.

An increasing number of states around the world are unravelling in the face of common problems: the inability to accommodate powerful cultural factors such as ethnicity, religion and tribalism; deficiencies in meeting their people's basic human needs (i.e. shelter, income, water, arable land, social services); severe economic, demographic and environmental stress; and the inability to assure the basic physical security of all citizens, especially of minorities who may fear for their rights and survival. Since the end of the cold war five years ago, numerous societies and entire

countries have collapsed into civil war, ethnic strife, or sub-national fragmentation.

Domestic strife routinely kills, injures or exiles thirty-to-fifty per cent of some states' entire populations, in places such as Rwanda, Liberia, Lebanon, Kuwait, Somalia and Bosnia, while wholesale national distress defines other lands such as Georgia, Crimea, Yemen, Cuba, Haiti, Russia, Iraq, Mozambique, Sudan, Zaire, southern Mexico, southeastern Turkey, and the great urban squatter quarters of Brazil's big cities. Something about contemporary statehood in the Third World is not working as well as it should.

In the Middle East, all the leading domestic weaknesses of states — poverty, resource imbalances, political brutality, denial of indigenous cultural identity — may be explained in part by the inappropriate use of the Western secular nation-state model throughout the region; this pertains to old, confident, big states such as Egypt, Iran and Turkey, as well as to young, small, slightly unsteady states such as Kuwait, Tunisia or Djibouti.

*"The governance crises and collapse of states that we witness in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa are not a senseless, crazed, atavistic regression from sensible modern statehood to primitive tribal identities and warfare, as Western observers often suggest. They may reflect the messy transition from the durable, an attempt by the sturdy people and the strong, old cultures of flimsy states to assure their survival through traditional forms of communal identity, social configuration and national engineering."*

The predominant Western view sees tribalism, politicised religion and ethnic violence in the Middle East (and the former Soviet bloc) as causes of instability and state upheaval, when in fact the opposite may be the truth: the modern secular nation-state, with its oligarchic and violent use of power against its own people, has failed badly, has caused tremendous suffering and despair, and has driven its people back to their religious and tribal identities.

The governance crises and collapse of states that we witness in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa are not a senseless, crazed, atavistic regression from sensible modern statehood to primitive tribal identities and warfare, as Western observers often suggest. They may reflect the messy transition from the durable, an attempt by the sturdy people and the strong, old cultures of flimsy states to assure their survival through traditional forms of communal identity, social configuration and national engineering.

These proven traditional forms of identity are appealing because they are culturally authentic, emotionally satisfying, more equitable in their distribution of socio-economic gains, and more acceptable in their distribution of political and military power.

The intriguing question today is whether the pattern of troubled communities in the South is now also evident in southern precincts inside the North, i.e. some inner cities in the United States and England where basic health, education and income indicators, insecurity, gangsterism, gang cultures, sex trades, gambling, substance addiction and dysfunctional communities reflect a Third World situation. Is it possible that the voter revolt now simultaneously sweeping Europe and North America is not an expression only of ideological discontent, but of the structural weakness of the secular state? Is it possible that frustrated and scared Western voters, like their Middle Eastern counterparts, seek comfort in older systems of religious and communal identity?

The violence, social fragmentation, fears and rightist political backlash that define many sectors of society in the United States and Europe may signal a process of national structural transformation — a transformation that seeks to redress the excesses of societies that worship individualism and materialism above all else. The rightist, often atavistic and nationalistic election trends in North America and Europe suggest that religion and tribalism may be making a comeback in those areas, if expressed in distinctly local, modern, industrial society forms.

The West explicitly recognises and acts upon the phenomenon of tribalism and communal identities in the Middle East, e.g. Western policies towards the Kurds and Shiites in Iraq, the Maronites in Lebanon, or the southern Sudanese. The West may now be expressing and accepting the same phenomenon in its own societies. Throughout the industrialised West, ethnicity, politicised religion and regionalism are forcing reassessments of established political structures and allegiances.

The growth and politicisation of the Christian right in the United States, and the rise of gangs, and the growing power of black Muslims in inner city black and Hispanic neighbourhoods are also signs of this phenomenon. Another may be the extraordinary growth of home — and neighbourhood-based private security systems in affluent, mostly white, neighbourhoods in the United States, where tens of billions of dollars are spent to assure the security that the state is increasingly unable to provide. The growth of ethnicity and regionalism in Western Europe are manifestations of this same process.

Sober analysis of these trends, whether they occur in the North or the South, would probably reveal that people in both areas are merely reacting to common stimuli. Both the US and the Middle East today are challenged by very similar ailments: widening domestic economic disparities and insensitivity of the rich to the poor; people reasserting old historical, ethnic and cultural claims against the majority; religious and ethnic tensions; increased prevalence and use of violence in society; growing numbers of people exhibiting deviant social behaviour (drugs, crime, sexual abuse); a populist political revolt by the majority; a revival of religious sentiments that often become politicised and sometimes violent; the inability of the central state authority to respond to the rights, needs and aspirations of all people; and, consequently, increased identification of large numbers of people with traditional forms of communal identity, such as tribalism, gangs, and religion.

## Rabin's conditions for PNA elections 'negate the entire self-rule process'

By Michael Jansen

**NOBEL PEACE** Prize laureate Yitzhak Rabin has, once again, put the entire Middle East peace process at risk. On Saturday he said, in an interview in the daily Ma'ariv, that he would be willing to withdraw the Israeli army "for three days" from Palestinian population centres in the West Bank so that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could hold elections.

This offer amounts to nothing less than a flagrant violation of the Oslo accord which states in Article XIII that Israel should redeploy its military forces "not later than the eve of elections for the (Palestinian) Council," that this redeployment should be "outside populated areas" and that this should be followed by "further redeployments to specified locations" as "responsibility for public order and internal security" is assumed "by the Palestinian police force."

The aim of these elections, according to the Oslo "Declaration of Principles" is to provide the means for "the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip" to "govern themselves" not to provide

camouflage for the Israelis to maintain the occupation of the 99 per cent of the West Bank they still control.

The "Palestinian Interim Self-Governing Authority," or the "Council," constituted by these elections is meant to govern Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank where the Palestinian police, not the Israeli occupation army, is supposed to "ensure public order" for the elections and thereafter.

The PNA's election commissioner, Dr. Saeb Erekat, was recently dismissed by Mr. Rabin's offer but, under the pressure of public opinion to produce a quick fix which might restore his deteriorating credibility, PNA President Yasser Arafat might be compelled to consider elections under some sort of compromise arrangement which would provide for the return of Israeli forces to Palestinian population centres after polling day. This would produce a Vichy style government in the still occupied territories and negate the entire self-rule process. And it would destroy, Arafat and his appointed national authority.

A Palestinian Council constituted under such con-

ditions would have no mandate to rule because it would have no effective power. Its authority would be derived from Israel rather than the Palestinian people. Although such an election would be used to demonstrate to the international community that Israel was proceeding with the implementation of the Oslo accord, it would not suit the Palestinians who would have to go on living under Israeli occupation.

Thus, there would be no point in holding elections in the occupied territories under Mr. Rabin's new conditions.

Two weeks ago Mr. Rabin made the holding of elections conditional on the abrogation by the PNA of clauses in the Palestinian covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, clauses which had been effectively abolished by the exchange of letters on Sept. 9-10, 1993, preceding the signing of the Oslo accord.

Propelled into accepting the Oslo accord by his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and similarly-minded members of his coalition cabinet, Mr. Rabin has, ever since the signing, done his best to undermine this accord. First, by stalling over its implementation, then by

reinterpreting its provisions to suit his political purposes.

The plan for self-rule envisaged a 10-month timetable, culminating in elections for the council. Within three months the two sides were supposed to sign an agreement on Israeli withdrawal from Jericho and Gaza Strip: this did not happen until May 4, 1991.

Military withdrawal was due to be completed within four months of this agreement; this took place at the end of May; if the timetable agreed at the time of the signing of the accord had been adhered to the pull-out from the Gaza and Jericho enclaves would have been completed before April 13.

At the time that this withdrawal was executed the Palestinians were meant to assume control over education and culture, health and social welfare, direct taxation and tourism; authority in these

five spheres of endeavour is just now being transferred. And direct elections for the council were supposed to be held no later than nine months after the signing of Oslo, on July 13, after Israeli withdrawal from West Bank "population centres."

The timetable for implementation, then by

last moment, that is May 1996. Further postponement would probably have to take place, however, because it is likely that Israel, at this time, will be engaged in an election campaign.

Another provision of the Oslo accord Israel has consistently violated is Article IV which says that the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be regarded as a "single territorial unit, whose integrity will be preserved during the interim period."

The Israelis have used the negotiations for implementation to procrastinate and to rewrite the Oslo accord in such a way as to strip it of its authority and destroy the credibility of the self-rule process and of Mr. Arafat and his entourage.

Israel has also forced the PLO to accept its interpretation of Article V of the Oslo accord which states that "permanent status negotiations" covering the crucial issues of Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, etc. "will commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period." Thus, Dr. Nabil Shaath recently admitted that the Palestinians had allowed Israel to postpone these negotiations until the very

last moment, that is May 1996. Further postponement would probably have to take place, however, because it is likely that Israel, at this time, will be engaged in an election campaign.

Mr. Biro says he continually receives reports of arbitrary arrests and detention without due process of law. "Journalists, trade unionists, lawyers, students and prominent figures of the banned political parties were among those who were subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention without due process of law," he writes.

Discussing individual cases of torture, the special rapporteur says that those tortured included a trade unionist, a senior member of the Democratic Unionist Party, journalists and former Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi.

United States Information Agency

## Sudan's human rights situation worsening, U.N. report says

By Judy Aita

**UNITED NATIONS** — "Grave and widespread violations of human rights by government agents, as well as abuses by members of different Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) factions" are increasing in Sudan, says U.N. Human Rights Commission special rapporteur Gaspar Biro.

In a report now under discussion in the U.N. General Assembly's Third Committee, Mr. Biro says that "women and children continue to be among the most vulnerable groups targeted deliberately by agents acting for, and in the name of, the government of the Sudan."

Because the plight of women and children in Sudan is "so alarming," Mr. Biro says, he will dedicate considerable attention to them in his next report to the Human

Rights Commission in February 1995. Also calling attention to the plight of students, he says they are "more and more becoming victims of repression by the security and police forces" in Sudan.

In the 25-page report, Mr. Biro expresses concern about the continuing human rights violations in Sudan and discusses in detail violations, detentions without due process, abductions, torture and forced displacement of civilians.

Mr. Biro visited Sudan last year, but the Sudanese government ignored his request to visit this year; he prepared his report after travelling in the region and conferring with refugees, representatives of U.N. and humanitarian aid agencies that operate in southern Sudan, and Sudanese citizens outside the country.

Citing his concern about

the continuing reports of systematic arrest of students, Mr. Biro notes that during visits to Khartoum in September and December 1993 he collected testimony concerning the harsh repression carried out by the security forces in university centres in Khartoum and elsewhere.

"This practice continued unabated despite international protests," he says.

Mr. Biro reports that university students in northern Sudan "constitute an especially vulnerable group which must be given more consideration by the international community than it has received to date."

Calling for "continued and intensified monitoring," Mr. Biro says he is "very disappointed by the fact that he cannot report any improvement of the situation of human rights in the Sudan; to the contrary, all the facts

demonstrated that in specific zones of southern Sudan, such as Bahir Al Ghazal or certain areas in western and eastern Equatoria, the situation has deteriorated owing to intensified and regular bombardment of civilian targets by the government."

The 10-year old civil war in the south between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has caused famine and forced millions to leave their homes.

"In the war-affected areas there continue to be serious violations and abuses committed by agents of the government of Sudan and by members of the different SPLA factions against the civilian population; summary execution, torture, rape, kidnapping, looting of goods and burning of houses are some of the violations of humanitarian law that have occurred

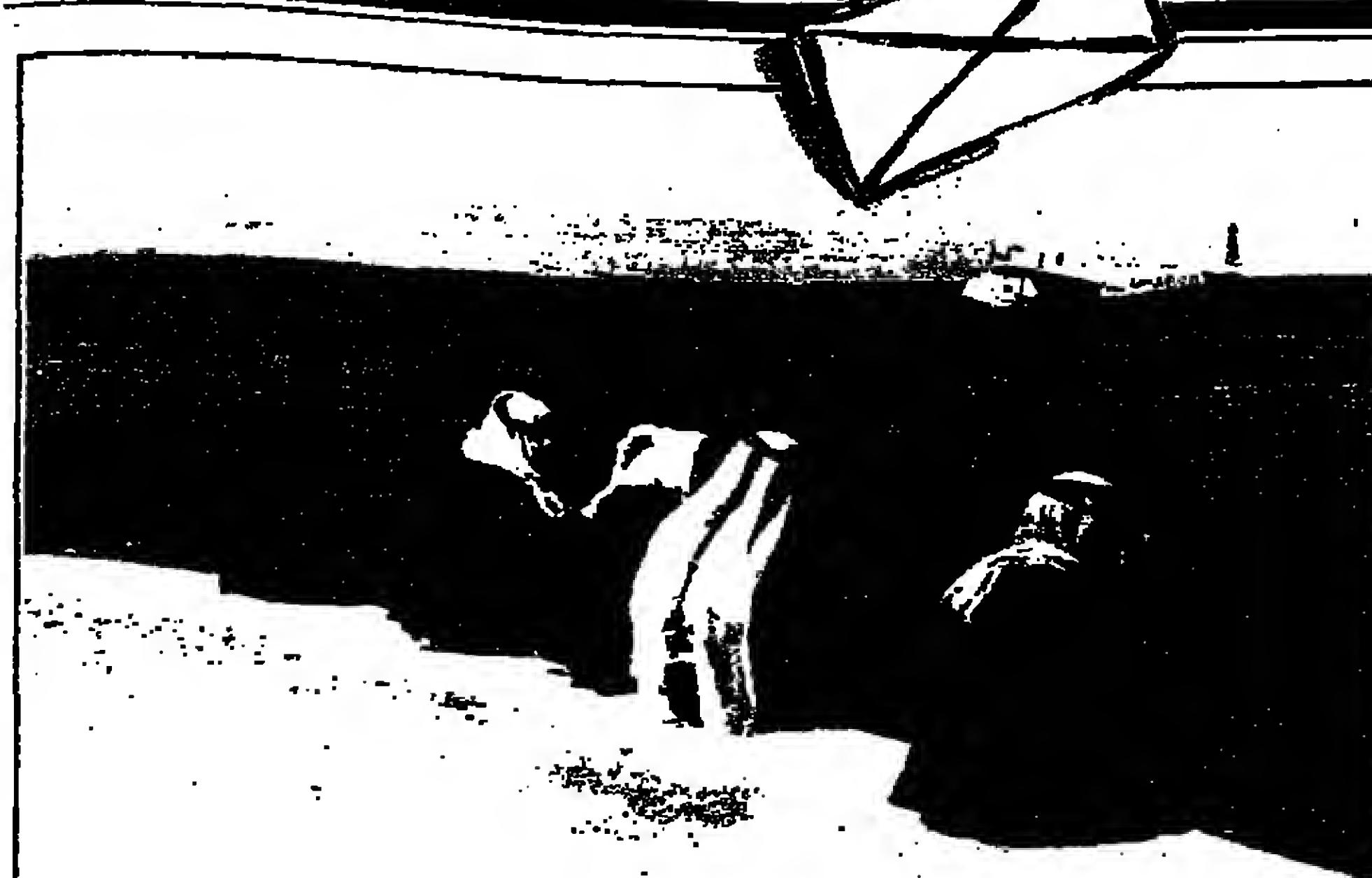
during the past year," Mr. Biro reports. Incidents of particular concern include indiscriminate aerial bombing of civilians by the government, the use of children as soldiers by all parties, the continued interference by all parties in the distribution of humanitarian aid and the increasing use of land mines.

Mr. Biro says hundreds of citizens accused of cooperating with the SPLA reportedly have been killed by Sudanese security, army, and paramilitary units.

"A particularly alarming situation has developed concerning cases of disappearances in towns of southern Sudan controlled by the government," the report says. "While cases

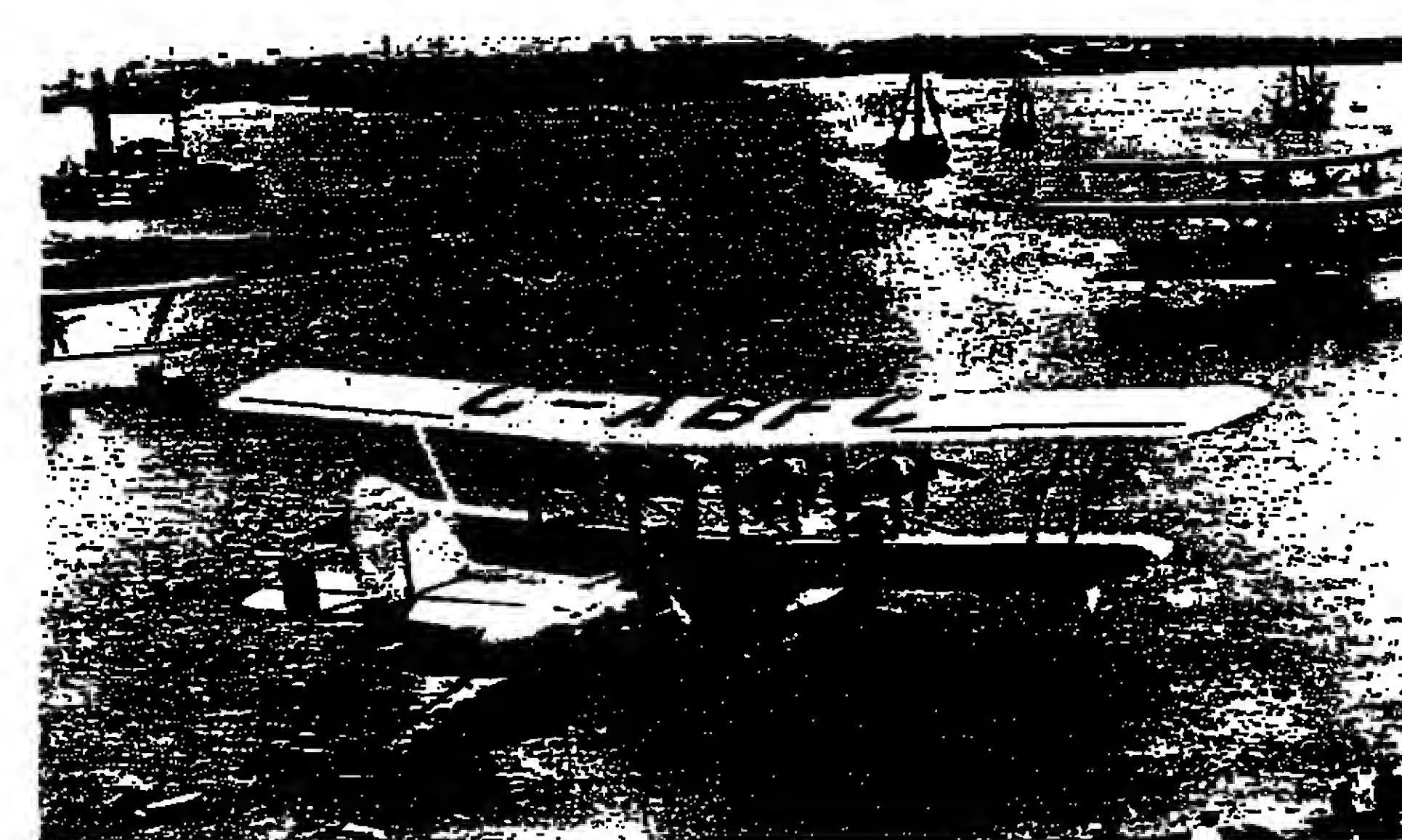
# Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1994



Short - Empire flying boat. "Challenger"  
Taxying on Sea of Galilee  
Mid 1930's

**75 YEARS OF FLYING HIGH** — Back in the "string and canvas" days of flight shortly after the armistice, a de Havilland DH4A aircraft took off one summer morning from an airfield on what is today the outskirts of Heathrow Airport, bound for Le Bourget, Paris. There was just one passenger on board — a reporter from the Evening Standard newspaper, G.M. Stevenson-Reece — and a cargo comprising a brace of grouse, London newspapers and Devonshire cream. The pilot, E.H. "Bill" Lawford, took two and a half hours to complete the crossing in the single propeller, string and canvas biplane. It was truly a flight that made history — launching an industry that we today take for granted. For that was the world's first daily international scheduled air service. And it took place 75 years ago. The service was operated by a company called Aircraft Transport and Travel Ltd, which has evolved through a number of different names, mergers and ownership changes into today's British Airways. So 1994 marks the 75th anniversary of international air travel. The Near East was to feature early on in the company's operations. In 1931 there were weekly mail flights to Cairo, and its flying boats — Short Kents and Calcuttas — used to land on the Nile. They would then proceed, via various transit points, to India — then part of the British Empire — and land at Karachi. There were also services into Alexandria, Gaza, Tiberias and Haifa. That initial London-Paris route remains the world's busiest international route.



The Three Short Kent Flying Boats  
"Scipio", "Sylvanus" and "Satyrus"  
Moored in Alexandria Harbour.

Each aircraft carried 15 passengers and cruised at 105 MPH



The first Jordanian tourist group to arrive in Israel are greeted at the Arava border crossing by Eilat Mayor Gabi Kadosh (right) who is holding a torch-light, used during the Jewish "Hanukkah" festival (AFP photo)

## Students visit Haifa

(Continued from page 1)

only to third country nationals.

Hundreds of Israeli tourists have already visited Jordan since border crossings opened two weeks ago. The open borders are part of the peace treaty signed Oct. 26 in the presence of U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Jordanian tour operators have complained that Israel is slow in issuing visas for Jordanians.

### Hanukkah in Cairo

In Cairo, members of Egypt's small Jewish community celebrated Hanukkah with 13 Hasidic rabbis who came from Israel especially for the holiday.

The service was at the 80-year-old main synagogue downtown under tight security, including police with assault guns outside and plainclothes police seated in the congregation. Israeli diplomats, headed by Ambassador David Sultan, also attended.

Yosef Hecht, chief Rabbi of Eilat, said his group also was celebrating the reading of a chapter of a book written

by the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, also known as Moses Ben Maimon, who lived in Egypt in the 13th century.

Most Egyptian Jews who attended were elderly women, remnants of 70,000 Jews who lived in Egypt until the establishment of Israel in 1948. An Israeli embassy spokesman said about 100-150 Jews remain in Egypt.

Mr. Sultan joined the rabis and Egyptian Jews in dancing to celebrate the occasion. Later they lit the candle for the third day of the eight-day feast.

"We are here to celebrate with the Jewish community in Egypt this important occasion," said Rabbi Hecht. He added that he felt safe in Egypt "with all the protection the police is providing us."

The head of the Jewish community, Emile Rousseau, produced laughter when he thanked "our dear Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for all the care he is giving us." He quickly realized his error and added: "Sorry, President Hosni Mubarak."

## Hamas not to down arms

(Continued from page 1)

The papers were released four hours later.

Meanwhile hundreds of Jewish settlers on Monday buried a rabbi killed in an attack by militants. One leader was reported as calling for revenge.

In Sunday's attack, gunfire killed Ami Olami, 35, of Ofniel, a windswept mountain-top settlement several kilometres from Hebron, where tensions have been high since the massacre of 30 Palestinian worshippers by a settler in February.

Israeli sources said the massacre came from a passing car, killing at least two men, or from the side of the road. The rabbi's car drove off the road and flipped over.

Olami was a spiritual leader at Ofniel, a settlement founded 10 years ago with about 50 families.

A policeman riding with him was shot in the back of the head, but managed to get out of the car and fire at the

attackers, settlers said. He was hospitalized in fair condition.

An anonymous caller to Israel radio who said he was from Hamas claimed responsibility for the shooting.

About 600 mourners from Ofniel and neighbouring settlements attended Olami's funeral in a drizzling rain Monday. Olami's grave was the first being dug at Ofniel, settlers said.

Zvi Katsover, head of the Kiryat Arba settlement next to Hebron, asserted to Israeli newspapers that violence would increase if Israel moved ahead with plans to withdraw soldiers from West Bank cities to give Palestinians autonomy.

"There will be a two-sided massacre. Under no circumstances will we agree to be sitting ducks. We have to respond," Mr. Katsover said, according to the Maariv daily.

"If we have got it wrong and have gone too quickly in reaching the agreements we have to admit it without shame," Mr. Katsover told the Haaretz newspaper.

"The Israeli people are not ready to take the same risks

as the government is to push forward the peace process," he said.

"The breakthrough with the PLO has run into difficulties and the government has no answer," admitted Mr. Zvilli, who is considered a Labour "dove."

"We cannot deny the facts: twice as many Israelis died in terror attacks during 1994 as during the year preceding the signing of the agreement."

Mr. Zvilli said Israel should now seek a permanent settlement with the Palestinians and leapfrog over the scheduled five-year autonomy period or "slow down noticeably the pace of negotiations."

"If we reach the conclusion that Yasser Arafat cannot be trusted, we have to tell people the Palestinians are not ready to go on and halt the completion of the Gaza and Jericho agreement."

After general elections in 1996, Israel should then review the situation, Mr. Zvilli explained.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders have asked Friday's confrontation by fighters from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, kept his 300 guerrillas on alert in the southern

part of the camp.

"Ain Al Hilweh is the largest among the 12 refugee camps in the camp Lt.-Col. Kamal Midhat and loyalist guerrillas seized six Fatah posts but Col. Shayeb retook them after day-long fighting."

Although military showdown seemed to have been averted, "Ain Al Hilweh remained shuttered. Cafes, shops, restaurants, bars and businesses were closed in apparent fear of a new round of hostilities."

Col. Maqdad, who has been backed in Friday's confrontation by fighters from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, kept his 300 guerrillas on alert in the southern

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## Corruption seen killing reform in Russia

By Vanora Bennett  
Reuter

MOSCOW — Yuri Boldyrev has seen something rotten in the state of Russia.

Eighteen months after he was sacked as the post-Soviet nation's chief corruption buster, this liberal parliamentarian has a dark vision of the ills Russia's leaders have brought upon their country through their greed and lust for unlimited power.

"The root of the problem is the policy of all our current executive leaders, including the head of state and his backers, of concentrating in their own hands absolutely uncontrolled power, allegedly for the sake of reform," he said.

"It's already becoming obvious that this much power is turning — inevitably — into mafia rule."

For the first time in over a year, corruption has returned to the top of the Russian political agenda. A series of recent scandals over graft in the army has shocked the nation.

The last time so much public attention was focussed on

the probity of Russia's ministers was in the summer of 1993.

Then, leaders of both right and left accused each other of dipping hands into the government till and published detailed documents proving how, as part of a growing battle.

Those scandals were wiped out of public memory by what followed — which Mr. Boldyrev believes is the defining moment of new Russia's short history.

In October 1993, President Boris Yeltsin, facing rebellion by a parliament which accused him of breaking the law, ordered his defence minister to bombard the legislature with tanks. The ghosts of the 147 victims still haunt Russia, Mr. Boldyrev believes.

"Shooting down one's own parliament doesn't happen every day or in every country," he told Reuters.

He blames the radical reformers in power before that, under pro-western economic supremo Yegor Gaidar, for creating the climate of vice and confrontation which led to the killings.

Mr. Gaidar's men's insist-

ence on instant capitalism, in the first post-Soviet days of 1992, meant they had to condone theft from the state so that the capital to fuel it could be amassed.

"The only locomotive for that was theft on a grand scale."

Not only did the reformist governments condone corruption, they dabbled in it themselves while the president turned a blind eye. Mr. Boldyrev says his own corruption checks into Mr. Yeltsin's reformist allies were repeatedly stopped from above.

"I'm not talking about a series of mishaps, or shortcomings, or procrastination, but a completely conscious policy," said Mr. Boldyrev, 33, who was head of Mr. Yeltsin's anti-corruption presidential control unit for a year.

Mr. Boldyrev says the "vulgar liberals" of Mr. Gaidar's Russia's choice, now waiting in the wings to return to power, are using the same no-holds-barred tactics to deflect popular attention from their own role in the 1993 bloodshed and win back sup-

port. The latest corruption scandals are no more than an attempt by the guilty to pin all the public blame for last year's fighting on Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Mr. Yeltsin.

"It goes without saying that this is an attempt to focus people's attention exclusively on the narrow problems of the army. It coincides with the wish to get rid of Grachev..."

"Mainly it's the representatives of Russia's choice. I think they will soon not only distance themselves from Grachev but also the president. They'll try to pass off on these two the blame for, among other things, shooting down the parliament."

While the army is being purged of malcontents, Mr. Gaidar's men are quietly strengthening their position.

Mr. Boldyrev targeted Anatoly Chubais, ex-privatisation minister who became first deputy prime minister this month, for particular criticism.

Mr. Chubais' privatisation agency, Goskomimushhestvo, has carried out the biggest

transfer ever of property from state hands since 1992, using a system of vouchers to enable every Russian citizen to buy a piece of his nation's assets at auction.

The showcase of radical economic reform, it has been much admired by international financial organisations. But Mr. Boldyrev said the very system by which it was run lent itself to abuse because there was no accountability.

Mr. Chubais became privatisation minister at the same time Mr. Boldyrev was appointed a Yeltsin aide. Mr. Boldyrev, an ex-electrical engineer with an economics degree, moved into politics as an anti-communist in the Soviet elections of 1989.

But, although he handed his findings personally to Mr. Yeltsin, nothing was done except to "organise away" Mr. Boldyrev's job.

The report only surfaced again after a young reporter on the same trail was blown to pieces by a bomb last month.

Amidst public uproar and growing suspicion that Dmitry Khodolov's killing had been ordered by the Defence Ministry, Mr. Yeltsin finally sacked the former head of the army in Germany, Matvei Burakov, from his new job as deputy defence minister.

Mr. Boldyrev's biggest political interest has always been tracking down graft. He helped draft the first Soviet corruption law, shortly before the superpower collapsed.

Now a leader of the liberal Yabloko Party — which com-

## Battle of bootleggers fought across channel

By Paul Majendie  
Reuter

DOVER, England — In the French port of Calais, Londoner Dave West runs a multi-million pound business for the "booze cruise" bootleggers of Britain.

Across the English Channel in the British port of Dover, customs chief Steve Clement tries to stem the tide of cheap beer and wine being smuggled over in hundreds of trans-

its a year to import drink.

Britain's Wines and Spirits Federation says almost 10 per cent of turnover is made up of cross-channel purchases.

Brewers claim the bootleggers, who make up to 1,000 pounds (\$1,500) a trip by selling their cheap imports illegally to British drinkers, are threatening the traditional British pub.

Mr. West, who used to sell fruit and vegetables from a market barrow, scoffs at the complaints and says he is stopping bootleggers turning into muggers.

In a war of words fought across the water, customs officer Clement says Mr. West is an entrepreneur without a conscience who robs British taxpayers.

The stakes are high for Mr.

West. He set up Eastenders in France six years ago, had a turnover of 14 million pounds (\$21 million) last year at his Calais warehouses and expects to boost that by 10 per cent this year.

"We sell 50 million pints of beer a year and about half a million litres of wine," he told Reuters at one of his two Calais warehouses. The thriving port has up to 11 million British visitors a year.

He admits to targeting the bootlegger and not just the daytripper taking wine and beer home for his or her personal consumption. This is allowed under much expanded limits since the European Union lowered trade barriers in 1993.

"I purposefully try to serve bootleggers. Ninety per cent of my business is bootleggers. I see it as a justifiable cause,"

said Mr. West, sporting a fine pot belly under his "Eastenders vinclapaso" T-shirt.

"Many of my customers would be out on the street mugging someone if they weren't doing this," he argued. "I am breaking no laws. I am not my brother's keeper. None of my customers has Swiss bank accounts."

Mr. West mocks the British brewers for having fat profits and for canvassing Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister) Clarke to lower taxes.

"They have been huffing and puffing and they cannot get the chancellor down. The belly-aching beer barons have had a stronghold on the trade for 200 years."

The government has consistently refused to cut alcohol duties which are far higher than those in France, I

arguing that could cost the state six billion pounds (\$9 billion) a year.

Mr. West reasons that the money saved on duty by the bootleggers is pumped back into the British economy. "I think it brings Britain out of the recession," said the cocky who claimed "customs just see me as a likeable rogue."

More than 1,000 people have phoned a confidential hotline set up for anonymous tip-offs. Mr. Clement's 40-strong Dover team have made 700 detections since April and expect to top 1,100 by the end of the financial year.

Seizures abound but what about convictions? "We've had one jailed for 15 months, another for nine and maybe a dozen suspended sentences. I am an enforcer. I don't make the law," Mr. Clement said.

British customs, who have a team of 250 officers tracking bootleggers around the country, have sweeping powers that are stronger than those of the police.

"If I arrest you at Dover docks, I can go to your home and your business and anywhere where you have been," Mr. Clement said.

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The minister complained he was not asked to make a speech at the Oct. 26 ceremony to sign the Israel-Jordan peace treaty or even to sit alongside the leaders

# Economy

## New Saudi development plan sets radical priorities

DUBAI (R) — Cash-strapped Saudi Arabia has drawn up a five-year plan that slashes public spending, lessens dependence on oil and promotes the private sector in an economy that has so far been largely state-driven.

The government pledges to balance revenues and expenditure and largely eliminate subsidies during the entire 1995-2000 plan period after more than a decade of deficit financing.

The economic priorities are outlined in a draft of the new five-year plan, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

The plan does not set financial targets and must be approved by King Fahd before it comes into effect on Jan. 1.

It says the priorities are:

— "To rationalise government expenditure and make the national economy more dependent on private sector activities..."

— "To adopt a fiscal policy which allows the level of expenditure to be commensurate with government revenues during the entire sixth

development plan period."

"To reduce dependence on the production and export of crude oil as the main source of national income."

Diplomats in the kingdom say senior Saudi officials have told them that the government is confident it will achieve at least 17 per cent of its budgeted spending cut for 1994 and plans further fiscal cuts for 1995.

Saudi Arabia had announced a 20 per cent cut in its 1994 budget to \$42.67 billion to absorb a sharp drop in oil prices and tackle deficits that have plagued its finances for years.

After spending over \$50 billion to help finance the 1990-91 allied war effort to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, Riyadh is facing its worst cash-flow problem in decades.

But the diplomats and economists say that with proper controls on spending, the world's biggest oil producer and exporter would still have a strong vibrant economy.

The diplomats said the new budget will also introduce a series of tariffs on utilities that have so far been heavily

subsidised — a major step that reflects the government's determination to risk taking unpopular decisions necessary to rein in spending.

The draft plan says the government should "reduce production costs of public services and utilities" and rationalise the system of direct and indirect subsidies provided by the state on many goods and services... with jeopardising the status of low income strata of the society."

"Prices of such services should not be less than their production costs except in rare cases and with the provision that they should be periodically reviewed," it says.

Saudi Arabia has already started slashing subsidies to farmers and looks set to increase prices for a range of utilities from power and water to phone charges.

Saudi King Fahd this year spoke of plans to privatise some state-owned agencies but economists say the process is likely to be lengthy and gradual as some of the companies are not run on economic basis.



Participants during the opening session of the workshop on "Women and Credit" which opened in Amman Monday (Peta photo)

## Workshop seek effective role for women in credit markets

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A global workshop on "Women and Credit" will try to tackle the inequality between women and men in competing for loans and jobs in developing countries.

"I think that the success of small women's business is now one of the important challenges facing the development of nations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and also in the Middle East," said Planning Minister Hisham Khatib.

"No doubt women in developing countries do not have yet an equal opportunity to compete with men in production and in the job market," he added.

Dr. Khatib, who deputised for Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, said that women, particularly in the labour force in most Arab nations, do not exceed 10 per cent.

He said that this was due to obsolete thinking and outdated traditions in many cases, and to lack of education, lack of funds, shortage of entrepreneurial skills and also marketing opportunities.

In Jordan, Dr. Khatib said, women now have equal access to education, including higher education, as men.

"It's a waste of resources if this talent is not utilised in productive facilities," Dr. Khatib told more than 40 managers and national coordinators of micro-enterprise development projects from 28 developing countries at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel Monday.

"W men's participation in the production sector is not only needed to enhance the workforce and increase the output and national income but it also enhances family income, women's self assertion and also the female's attitude at home and in the

society," he added. The five-day workshop, which is organised by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Planning, aims at promoting cross regional exchange of experience between countries in credit and micro-enterprise development for women; equip participants with gender analytical tools and discuss gender concerns in micro-enterprise development; to explore innovation credit mechanism, products and approaches that have successfully reached women micro-entrepreneurs and to analyse internal and external factors that effect management of credit projects.

Zohra Merabet, regional programme advisor of UNIFEM in Jordan, who also addressed participants, said that this region faces a serious challenge regarding the participation of women in the financial market.

According to Ms. Merabet, surveys carried out by UNIFEM projects in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan showed that women represent a very marginal portion of the borrowers from the private and national banks and a "pathetic group" when it comes to borrowing for business purposes.

She attributed the minimal number of loans to women to two main reasons. One, she said, was that bankers are not interested in granting small loans for micro and small enterprises as the managing cost is too high.

The other factor was that the majority of women questioned either felt uneasy about dealing with the banks or did not have enough knowledge about the availability of special credit services provided by the government or development projects.

Ms. Merabet said that the rapid social and economical

changes that the region has been through recently have deeply affected the women's status in a similar way as it did in Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

According to Ms. Merabet, an approximate figure for the region shows that 16 per cent of the women over the age of 15 are economically active but they represent less than 10 per cent of the total labour force.

She called on the participants to share their experiences in improving women's access to credit and to try to lay the foundation to build a global women and credit coalition, which is "a dear objective for UNIFEM as it will certainly contribute to its long-term development goal of a world-wide women economic and political empowerment."

The long-term outcome of the workshop includes improved and gender-sensitive management of projects, and improved network between participants so that more women micro-entrepreneurs can be reached.

The UNIFEM was created as a result of an international conference on women in Mexico City in 1975. Established in 1976 by the United Nations as the voluntary fund for the U.N. Decade for Women, UNIFEM became an autonomous and financial support within the U.N. family in 1985. UNIFEM provides direct technical and financial support to programmes that promotes women and to improve the quality of life for all.

Participants come from Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Ivory Coast, Namibia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania and Jordan.

## Chinese economist criticises crackdown on state-asset sales

BEIJING (AFP) — A senior Chinese economist has criticised the government's full-scale offensive against the sale of state assets, warning that it would starve the ailing state sector of badly needed foreign funds.

In a blunt speech to an economic symposium, the director of the State Council Development Research Centre, Sun Shangming, suggested that the government had overreacted in its bid to clamp down on local authorities selling off state land and equipment to foreign firms at throwaway prices.

"It is inappropriate to negate the use of foreign funds to upgrade existing state-run companies just because a few such companies have sought short-term interests in cooperating with overseas firms," Mr. Sun was quoted as saying by the Xinhua news agency.

Mr. Sun's remarks came after China's vice premier in charge of the economy, Zhu Rongji, launched a major offensive on state asset sales, saying they were draining "the lifeblood of the state and threatening the very existence of socialism."

Cheap sales of state assets in the past decade are estimated to have cost China some \$60 billion, and the government recently began a nationwide campaign to accurately assess the asset

value of 150,000 state-owned firms in a bid to counter further bargain sell-offs.

However, Mr. Sun appeared to take issue with Mr. Zhu's contention that the sale of state assets necessarily contradicted the socialist principle of public ownership and the protection of state property rights and interests.

"It is wrong to oppose the purchase of state assets by foreign firms as a privatisation measure," Mr. Sun said, pointing out that foreign capital has become a major source of income for economic growth and an important factor for promoting technological growth in China.

The use of foreign funds by state-run firms to upgrade operations is a means of solving the sector's capital shortage and of bringing in sophisticated technology and managerial expertise, he said.

The main problem from the government's point of view is that many local authorities use the proceeds from state property transfers to balance budget deficits or for speculative investments, ignoring central directives to channel the money into medium-sized state.

Meanwhile, the China Daily Business Weekly said that at least 36 loss-making state firms in 18 Chinese cities are to go bankrupt before the end of the year under a pilot project to phase out no-

value enterprises.

About 20 per cent of bank loans to enterprises have so far gone bad, while reserves for problem accounts stand at only one per cent.

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## 11 Chinese athletes test positive for drugs

TOKYO (AP) — The performances of China's athletes at last month's Asian Games often seemed too good to be true. Reports Monday quoting games officials said some of them probably were.

According to several Japanese media reports, the Olympic Council of Asia has found high levels of banned substances in the urine samples of 11 Chinese athletes who competed in last month's Asian Games, a regional version of the Olympics.

Council and Games' organizing committee officials reportedly said the samples indicated the athletes had abnormal amounts of testosterone or other performance-enhancing substances in their systems.

The names of the athletes were not released pending official confirmation, the reports said.

But Kyodo News Service,

quoting unnamed sports sources, said one was Lu Bin, who won four gold medals at the Games and set a world record in the women's 200-metre individual medley.

It said another was Yang Aihua, who already has been banned for competition for two years by FINA, the International Swimming Federation.

Yang, who won the women's 400-metre freestyle at the World Championships in September, tested positive for testosterone in surprise tests just prior to the Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan.

Chinese women swimmers won 12 of the 16 golds at stake in the world meet and all 15 of their races at the Asian Games, contributing to China's overall games haul of 137 gold medals in 337 events.

Kyodo also identified Xiong Guoming, a male swimmer who won four gold medals, and track athlete

Han Qing, winner of the women's 400-metre hurdles, as being among the 11.

It said eight of the 11 were swimmers and the others competed in track, cycling and canoeing, other press reports said six were swimmers.

Dr. Yoshio Kuroda, who supervised the final set of tests conducted in Tokyo Saturday, confirmed that high testosterone levels were found in both A and B samples for some athletes.

But Kuroda refused to comment on who was tested, or give their names.

Asian Games organisers contacted by the Associated Press confirmed the head of their medical commission was in Tokyo in connection with the tests, but also refused to comment further.

A formal hearing of the Olympic Committee of Asia's medical committee, which Kuroda chairs, must be held before results of the tests can

be made public. Such a meeting could come within the next week.

At the World Swimming Championships, though they did not name China, more than a dozen coaches lodged a formal complaint over doping in the sport and requested stricter tests. That led to the surprise testing just before the Asian Games began Oct. 2.

FINA officials said the results of those tests indicated possible drug use among several other Chinese women swimmers, but were inconclusive.

Though Chinese sports officials insist they oppose drug use among athletes and publicly threaten to deal harshly with offenders, Yang's case is not the first.

Five Chinese swimmers have failed doping tests over the past two years — equaling the total number of athletes from other countries

that have tested positive in FINA tests over the past 22 years.

Yang is at least the 34th Chinese athlete to flunk a doping test since 1987. Chinese officials acknowledge 24 of their athletes tested positive last year alone.

Another top female athlete, discuss thrower Qu Qiaoping, tested positive for anabolic steroids in an out-of-competition test Sept. 26.

Monday's reports, if confirmed, would raise serious doubts about the effectiveness of testing in general.

Only one athlete — the captain of the Thai men's soccer team — was announced to have flunked a doping test during the two-week Asian Games, which closed Oct. 16.

He had already left Japan before the announcement was made, however.

## Parma stay top as Batistuta breaks record

PARIS (AFP) — Depleted Parma, playing without three regular first team players and reduced to ten men in the second-half, stayed top of the Italian first division while Ivan Zamorano continued to make Real Madrid boss Jorge Valdano eat his words in Spain.

Parma forced a 1-1 draw away to Inter Milan, but they had to survive some worrying moments and kept a tight watch on the talented 20-year-old Marco Del Vecchio. Inter took the lead with a first-half penalty slotted home by Uruguayan Ruben Sosa, but Parma pulled level on the hour thanks to a goal from Marco Branca.

The leaders, who had Luigi Apolloni sent off for a second yellow card, were without injured Antonio Benarrivo, Swedish frontrunner Tomas Brolin and Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla.

Fiorentina's Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta broke the Italian league scoring record Sunday with his thirteenth goal in eleven games.

His latest effort — as well as a deflected shot attributed as an own-goal by Pietro Vierchowod — saw his side draw 2-2 with Sampdoria, for whom David Platt and Ruud Gullit were on target.

Batistuta has scored in every game of the season, beating a ten-match record established by Ezio Pascutti in

1963/64 for Bologna. The next highest goal tally in the Serie A this season is held by Giuseppe Signori of Lazio, who has seven.

Batistuta put away a 60th minute spot kick to level after English international captain Platt fired home a first-half penalty.

Fiorentina's second came on 73 minutes but then former Dutch international Gullit scored his first goal for Sampdoria since returning from AC Milan two minutes from time.

Last week Batistuta scored two — and again had a shot deflected in by a defender — in the 5-2 win over Napoli.

The result moved Fiorentina into third place, one point ahead of Lazio who were thrashed 3-0 at home by AS Roma. Another Argentinian, Abel Balbo, started the rot with a second-minute opener and Lazio's afternoon was ruined still further by crowd violence that saw four policemen hurt.

Juventus stayed in second spot, one point behind Inter but with a game in hand, after a 2-1 win at Padova.

Their goals came from Roberto Baggio, who found the net in the 30th minute but who went off injured early in the second half, and Fabrizio Ravanelli.

In Spain, Zamorano fired

Real back to the top with his 21st goal in as many games.

The Chilean, facing the axe at the start of the season, hit Real's third in a 4-2 win over visiting Tenerife, to give the club 18 points.

Deportivo La Coruna, who went into action without flu victim Bebeto, are just behind on goal difference after seeing off Valladolid 4-0 while Zaragoza and Barcelona both contrived to lose.

Valdano, who vowed to sell the struggling Zamorano when he took over at the club at the start of the season, admitted: "We were going to try and swap him for another 'jet-set' player like a Fonseca



Fiorentina's Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta jubilates after scoring a goal. He has scored in every game of the season breaking the previous record set in 1963 (AFP photo)

placed Seville to stay on 16 points. Crotou Davor Suker scored the all-important goal in the seventh minute.

Exciting Nantes kept their unbeaten record intact in the final match of the first-half of the French season and beat Cannes 1-0.

Meanwhile, Bastia could face a home ground ban after a pitch invasion and mass-brawl interrupted Saturday night's 2-2 draw with visitors Monaco.

Denzons of Bastia fans attacked referee Antoine de Pandis, a linesman and several Monaco players after a goal was disallowed and a penalty turned down, delaying the game for 20 minutes.

"Some went for me and some went for the linesman," said de Pandis. "My shirt was torn and some Monaco players were attacked. The only thing we could do was to take refuge in the changing room."

Jacques Thebault, director general of the French Football League, said a disciplinary commission would rule on the incident on Thursday, adding: "Bastia still risk being banned from playing at home, even though the match was re-started."

Montana, who had 163 yards passing before his injury, became the fifth NFL quarterback to surpass 40,000 career yards.

Lyon made no mistakes at home to Martigues with a 3-0 victory and goals from Frank Gava, Florian Maurice and Stephane Roche enabled them to move on to 33 points.

With 19 matches gone Nantes now have 41 points and are six points clear of nearest rivals Paris St. Germain.

Fresh from their superb 4-1 victory over Swiss club FC Sion in a midweek UEFA Cup tie, Nantes secured three points in the 65th minute with a goal from striker Patrice Loko — the league's leading scorer with 12 goals.

Puris St. Germain, who have been unable to reproduce their remarkable European Cup form in the domestic league, dropped a point in the leadership chase. They were held 1-0 at home by Bordeaux and now have 35 points from 19 matches.

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# Sports

## Schneider gets 52nd world cup win

PARK CITY, Utah (R) — Vreni Schneider gave herself a belated birthday present Sunday, winning the world cup season's opening slalom for the 52nd victory of her illustrious career.

Schneider, who turned 30 while finishing third in giant slalom the previous day, earned an \$18,000 bonus for the best combined result of the weekend and total of \$38,000.

Making another of her famous second-run comebacks, she posted a time of 1:39.95 to lead a 1-2 Swiss sweep. Martina Accolla was second in 1:40.58, the best result of her career.

Kristina Andersson of Sweden was third in 1:40.67, but it was her heralded teammate, Pernilla Wiberg, who held the key to the race.

Wiberg, runner-up to Schneider for the world cup overall title last season, held a commanding lead starting the final run but made a critical error near the finish and wound up fourth in 1:40.70.

French teammate Patricia Chauvet and Beatrice Fiolli tied for fifth at 1:40.95.

Schneider, who confessed to a bit of lethargy on the first run that left her a full second behind Wiberg, then turned on the jets as she so often has done.

"I skied with power, I made the attack," Schneider said of an off-practiced strategy which left her only 10 victories behind the Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell, a mark she says she cannot match.

"It is too many. I'll be lucky to win three or four

## ALPINE SKIING

more races," said Schneider, who contemplated retirement last spring because of a lingering knee injury.

Now, after an auspicious start that has given her 160 points in defence of her world cup overall title, she may have to rethink the programme.

"It is good beginning, but the season is very long. I will try my best to do it," Schneider said.

She might not have won Sunday if Wiberg hadn't made her fatal mistake.

"I got far back and my skis made a 'V', then I almost missed the last gate," Wiberg said in explanation of an error that came within hailing distance of the finish line. "I'm lucky to make it down at all."

In her first race since a season-ending knee injury last March, Wiberg crashed in giant slalom Saturday and had to overcome the early-season jitters that plagued so many of the racers, particularly on the first slalom run.

Confounded by a course

set by Swedish coach Gottfrid Trinkl that lacked the rhythm to which they are accustomed, racers fell like bowling pins on a steep course with hard-packed snow. Thirty-one racers left that first course. Only one of 30 racers crashed on the second run.

The women's tour next goes to Vail for a downhill race on Friday, followed by a Super G and giant slalom.

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**BOMBAY PARALYSED:** Members of the local opposition party, Shiv Sena, stop a train in central Bombay on Monday. Supporters of the party also burned vehicles during a crippling general strike to protest the deaths of

nearly 130 tribals during a stampede triggered by a police baton charge. Police reported dozens of arrests as sporadic violence broke out (see page 4) (AFP photo)

## Afghan security forces continue Kabul cleanup

**KABUL (AFP)** — Troops patrolled the streets of Kabul Monday, checking vehicle ownership and confiscating firewood collected illegally, in a move to make the Afghan capital safer for citizens and property.

"No one has the right to sell or purchase state property or the timbers, windows and doors collected from the ruins of people's houses," explained a garrison officer.

Two military trucks were seen fully loaded with wooden roofing beams, windows and doors which troops had confiscated from the wood merchants in the north-western part of the city.

"Our action has been taken according to a decision of the Kabul Security Commission," said one of the garrison troops searching wood depots for illegal supplies.

Announcements have been made on Radio Kabul over the last week warning citizens that the trade in house timbers must stop.

In the current fighting between rival Afghan factions, which has continued on off since January, tens of thousands of civilians have been forced out of their homes due to incessant rocket barrages and shifting front lines, which gobble up residential areas, turning them into wastelands.

As soon as there is a lull in the fighting, scavengers, often gangs of children as young as five years old, plunder the ruins for anything combustible to use as fuel.

With winter fast approaching, firewood obtained from derelict homes comes cheaper than buying

supplies from the bazaar, where only the rich can afford prices inflated by the economic blockade imposed on Kabul by factions fighting President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Garrison troops have also been seen stopping vehicles and checking for ownership papers. In one case at an east Kabul intersection, security troops cordoned off the street and trained their heavy machine guns on an offending driver who was forced to surrender his car keys.

Garrison troops were also seen arbitrating a dispute between a petrol seller and a tax-driver Monday — the seller had welded a false bottom inside a 20-litre canister so it contained only the short measure of 15 litres.

Although there is no established linkage, the Kabul cleanup operation by Mr. Rabbani's garrison forces coincides with the provincial cleanup operation by the forces of religious students known as Talebha.

The Talebha, who recently cleared illicit check-posts collecting tolls on the national highway from the Pakistan border to the southern provincial capital Kandahar, are still a mystery force.

However, a Defence Ministry official said the Talebha — despite intense debate over who is backing them — were generally well received in Afghanistan so far, because they were perceived as pious Muslims campaigning against corruption.

The Talebha are actually doing the work of the state by improving security on national highways," the Defence Ministry official said.

"The United Nations bears responsibility for what is hap-

## Egyptian clerics, Gulf urge action in Bosnia

**CAIRO (Agencies)** — Egypt's highest Sunni Muslim authority on Sunday accused the United Nations and European countries of "cowardice" for failing to stop Serb attacks on Bosnian Muslims, the official news agency MENA reported.

Sheikh Gad Al-Haq Ali Gad Al-Haq, imam of Al-Azhar, condemned "the cowardly attitude of the U.N. and the laxity of European countries which are not acting to end Serb aggression against the Muslims" of Bosnia.

He stressed the need to do everything possible "to recover the rights of the (Bosnian) Muslims."

Kuwait called Sunday for urgent international action to halt "Serb aggression" against Bihać in northwestern Bosnia, the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported.

The Kuwaiti cabinet expressed its "grave concern" at attacks on Bosnian Muslims after its weekly meeting, and urged the international community to "use all means likely to end the tragedy of the Bosnian people."

The U.N. Security Council on Saturday demanded that Bosnian Serb forces withdraw from the Bihać safe area, a Muslim enclave which has been under attack for a week.

Gulf Arab newspapers slammed the West and the United Nations over the Serb offensive on Bihać, with some urging the Islamic world to act and others accusing the West of conspiring with the Serbs.

Emirates News said: "For God's sake, how much longer will the suffering of the people of Bosnia be permitted to continue?"

pening now in Bosnia," said Saudi Arabia's Al-Yawm daily.

"Europeans are trying to cover up their weak positions by pushing for an agenda of a peaceful solution, which is a losing agenda, the United States condemns the atrocities by the Serbs without taking action, and the Western conscience is dormant."

"The Islamic Nation should rise... to find ways to help the Bosnian people keep their identity... and give them the means for self-defence," Al-Yawm said.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Al-Khaleej said: "The stark realities on the ground show what looks like a conspiracy — if not indeed a conspiracy — between the Serbs and the West."

"Looking back at the Western policies... shows that the only result of this policy has been to provide a cover and protection for the Serbs to give them time to carry out their plans."

"In this issue, we are one side, the Turkish state is the other. If the other side is ready, let us immediately stop the war," Mr. Ocalan said in the letter whose contents were published in a pro-Kurdish daily.

"We don't want tens of thousands of innocent people to die."

"Because we are aware that the problem of Kurdishism is more international in nature than any other problem, we believe influential states and/or international organisations can play a major role in finding a solution."

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, a hardliner on the PKK, told reporters she was not prepared to negotiate with the group.

"We did not start down this path by taking any terror-

## Queen Beatrix, Prince Claus begin state visit on Dec. 6

By Cathy King  
Special to the Jordan Times

**AMMAN** — At the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her husband His Royal Highness Prince Claus will visit Jordan early next month on official visit to further strengthen bilateral ties.

"Relations between Jordan and the Netherlands have always been good," said Netherlands Honorary Consul General to Jordan Raouf Abu Jaber.

Ties between the two royal families date back to the days of Queen Juliana, who abdicated in 1980, and have continued with her daughter and present queen, Queen Beatrix, Dr. Abu Jaber told the Jordan Times.

The friendly relations between the royal families of Jordan and the Netherlands have laid the foundation for good bilateral relations on all fronts: Commercial, diplomatic, cultural and technical.

In 1955, Dr. Abu Jaber obtained a license to produce Dutch beer, Amstel, which was marked the first commercial venture between the countries.

In 1960, KLM, the Royal Dutch Airline, was the first international European airline to fly direct to Amman; now KLM has seven daily flights between Am-



Queen Beatrix

man and Amsterdam.

The Jordan Dairy was set up with Dutch technical assistance in 1969.

"Pleasant business relations exist between the two countries especially in the dairy and food industry. Apart from excellent technical assistance provided by Holland, we also import its cheese, butter, milk, maize, potatoes and potato seeds," said Dr. Abu Jaber.

He listed other Dutch imports to the Kingdom as cattle, meat, refined sugar, medicines, feed concentrates, raw plastic material, machinery, furniture and a large amount of second-hand clothing.

In return he said that

Jordan exports green vegetables, domestic plants, rock phosphates and copper. Aluminum is exported.

In 1993, Jordan amounted to JD 63 million and Jordanian exports to the Netherlands JD 11 million.

"In 1991, 10,000 tonnes of potash was exported but this exchange of trade has not been maintained. Rock phosphate can also be used for fertilizers which we continue to export," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Queen Beatrix last visited Jordan in 1978, then as the crown princess.

When King Hussein conducted a working visit to the Netherlands in April 1987, he extended an invitation to the Queen.

In recent months arrangements were proposed and Queen Beatrix is due to arrive on Dec. 6 to spend three days here.

Among those to accompany the queen will be the foreign minister who is expected to hold talks with Jordanian officials.

Dr. Abu Jaber has been the Netherlands' honorary consul for 34 years. The Dutch ambassador in Damascus is his government's representative. Consulate officials say there are no plans to open an embassy in Amman in the near future.

## COLUMN 10

### Police nab gang of bus robbers, rapists

**BEIJING (AP)** — Two undercover police officers have caught a group of bandits in the act of raping a woman on a long-distance bus in west-central China, an official report said Monday.

The police caught the gang of four young men after a woman who was being attacked by one in the back of the bus screamed for help, the newspaper Guangming Daily said. Official reports indicate that the presence of such roving gangs has made travel by long-distance bus and trains in remote areas of China increasingly dangerous.

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### Pope injures finger in car door

**VATICAN CITY (R)** — Pope John Paul injured the little finger of his right hand when a car door was shut on it, the Vatican said. The accident occurred when the Pope was driven from his apartments inside the Vatican to St. Peter's Basilica, where he celebrated a mass with 30 new cardinals. "This morning, getting out of the car which was driving him to the Vatican basilica for the celebration of the holy mass, the holy father's finger was injured as the door was closed," a Vatican statement said.

Sabah newspaper, a leading Turkish daily, said the Pope's letter indicated rebel forces were "concerned" and angling for an amnesty.

Pro-Kurdish daily Ozgur Ulke, where Mr. Ocalan writes a regular column, said the letter was sent to leaders of the United States, Germany, France and Britain, as well as to the United Nations, NATO, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe.

Pope's remarks were the strongest signal so far that the elusive Marxist-Leninist leader, believed based in Syria, was prepared to forego his deadly guerrilla campaign against civilian and military targets for a negotiated settlement.

They also follow an army sweep against PKK forces in eastern Tunceli province, an operation described by one commander as the biggest in modern Turkish history. Last reports from Tunceli show the rebels on the defensive but far from vanquished.

The letter went further than a similar offer in August to mark the 10th anniversary of the PKK's armed struggle. A ceasefire, declared in March of 1993, lasted two months before rebels ambushed and killed 33 unarmed Turkish soldiers.

The ambush played into the hands of Turkey's hawks, who said the ceasefire was a ploy to regroup after severe losses in November 1992 when Turkish military and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces attacked PKK bases on the border of northern Iraq.

### Works of Deng enter curriculum

**BEIJING (R)** — Shanghai students, who already must study the thoughts of Karl Marx and Mao Tsetung, will next year also have to master the theories of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, the official media said. Trial courses in the study of Mr. Deng's works among Shanghai's 130,000 higher education students have been remarkably successful in teaching students of the significance of his economic reforms, the Youth Daily said in an edition received in Beijing Monday. "Study of Deng Xiaoping's collected works... helped towards a more scientific and correct knowledge of perplexing problems (in reform)," the newspaper said.

The fund was set up by the 22-member Arab League in 1976 with the primary goal of helping regional states in tackling persistent balance of payment deficits through soft loans and technical assistance.

Judicial sources said Canada could get involved in the Bahraini case as he was extradited to the UAE by another country without consulting it.

Mr. Bahrululam had lived in Lebanon for several years despite AMF attempts to bring him back to the UAE. During the civil strife that ended in 1990, he was under the protection of some warlords there, sources said.

AMF sources said Mr. Hashem, who had served in the Abu Dhabi-based fund between 1980 and 1986, had used the swindled money to invest it abroad, mainly in Britain and Canada and in secret bank accounts in Switzerland.

Sources close to the case said the AMF had so far spent more than \$35 million on legal action to recover the embezzled money.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organization, is also suffering from an appeal court in Abu Dhabi after they were convicted early this year.

### Chinese doctors save panda with sick pancreas

**BEIJING (R)** — Chinese military doctors have saved the life of an eight-year-old female panda diagnosed as having acute pancreatitis and a severe intestinal obstruction, the Xinhua News Agency said Monday. Rongrong, the first Panda born by artificial insemination at the Fuzhou Zoo in southeastern Fujian province, fell ill on Nov. 15 with a high fever, the agency said. A dozen doctors from the Nanjing Military Area Command Hospital rushed to the zoo on Nov. 1 and took Rongrong to hospital, where it was X-rayed and given an ultrasound examination.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Iranian president to boycott OIC meeting

**NICOSIA (AP)** — Iran's President Hashemi Rafsanjani will boycott a forthcoming Islamic summit in Morocco to protest Rabat's recently established ties with Israel, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported Monday. The state-run agency quoted the Iran news daily as saying it had learned from official sources that Mr. Rafsanjani would stay away from the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). IRNA quoted the English-language paper as saying Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati would lead the Iranian delegation to the two-day conference, scheduled to open in Casablanca Dec. 12. The paper said Mr. Rafsanjani's "absence would be a protest against (Morocco's)... submission to Zionist demands while the people of Palestine remain orphaned from their rightful homeland."

### Libyans to discuss Lockerbie in London

**TRIPOLI (AFP)** — A Libyan delegation is to hold talks on solving the Lockerbie affair during a visit to London this week, a lawyer for the two men indicted over the attack said Monday. Libya has been under an international embargo because it has refused to hand over the men, whom Britain and the United States accuse of planting the bomb which blew up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, killing 270 people. Lawyer Ibrahim Legwell said he would be a member of the delegation which had been invited by the House of Commons and would visit within the next two days. "The talks will focus on the ways of finding a solution to the crisis between Libya and the West," he said, without identifying the other members of the delegation.

### Rushdie asks EU to use might against Iran

**BRUSSELS (R)** — British author Salman Rushdie on Monday urged the European Union (EU) to use its financial clout to force Iran to lift an Islamic death sentence on him. "Iran is very vulnerable. It needs (a good EU) relationship," Mr. Rushdie told reporters after meeting a representative group of EU foreign ministers. Mr. Rushdie has been in hiding for six years since the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a death sentence on him for alleged blasphemy in his novel "Satanic Verses." The author said it was time for the West to stop its condemnations of the fatwa and to impose on Iran something with "deleterious consequences." Iran was one of the few large countries that did not have special economic links with the union, he said.

### Sudan to protest Eritrean guerrilla charge

**KHARTOUM (R)** — Sudan's ministry of foreign affairs will make an official protest to Eritrea over its accusation Sudan has been training guerrillas to undermine it, the Akhbar Al-Yom newspaper said on Monday. It said the Foreign Ministry would soon summon the Eritrean ambassador to Sudan to give him the official protest. A statement distributed by the Eritrean embassy in Addis Ababa on Thursday accused the government of Sudan of training over 400 "terrorists" from August this year and said it had just recruited 300 more. Eritrea also denied Khartoum's allegations that it has trained 300 Sudanese opposition forces for similar cross-border operations.

### Turks jail Greek pizza delivery man

**NICOSIA (AP)** — A Greek pizza delivery man on Monday was sentenced to three days in a Turkish-Cypriot prison after straying across the buffer zone on the divided island of Cyprus. The Turkish-Cypriot news agency TAK, monitored in Ankara, said George Koutsopoulos was jailed for "infiltrating a military zone." On the other side of the green line dividing the island, the Cyprus News Agency (CNA) said the 24-year-old student from Greece "lost his way" as he was making a delivery on Saturday night. He was trying to deliver a pizza to U.N. peacekeepers who control the buffer zone between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, it said.

### 'Prison blunders' in trial of British soldiers

**LARNACA (AP)** — A Cyprus court will decide Friday whether to hold a special hearing into demands that charges be dropped against British soldiers accused of killing a Danish tour operator because of prison blunders. The court in the town of Larnaca on Monday heard defense arguments that a fair trial for two of the three defendants in the Louise Jensen manslaughter case was "impossible" after prison guards read confidential evidence. Antonis Andreou, representing defendant Jeffrey Pernell, said his constitutional rights had been violated by the blunder. Last week, Mr. Andreou revealed that 11 pages of notes and sketches prepared by Pernell while on remand at Nicosia central prison had been intercepted and read by a guard there. Tassos Katsikides, representing another of the accused, Alan Ford, said similar incident had occurred with his client. Mr. Andreou, backed by Mr. Katsikides, argued Monday that because of the blunders the chances of a fair trial were "impossible within the framework of the constitution," guaranteeing confidentiality between a lawyer and client.

### Canadian jailed in UAE for multi-million dollar AMF scam